

**Acceptance period for request forms:**  
**12:00 p.m. November 11, 2024 (Mon) to 1:00 p.m. December 2, 2024 (Mon)**

# **2025**

## **Guide to JFGE Grant Applications**



## Introduction

During the previous fiscal year of FY2023, the Japan Fund for Global Environment (JFGE) reached the 30th anniversary of its establishment. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the many people who have supported us throughout the years.

Compared to the time of our founding, recent years have witnessed dramatic changes to environmental and social issues as well as the situation in which NPOs are placed. In light of this social background, as part of the review project for the 30th anniversary of JFGE in FY2023, we asked a large number of stakeholders, including environmental NPOs nationwide, to share their opinions on the role JFGE has played over the years and on the future challenges posed by the environmental and social issues we are facing. In June 2024, having compiled the results of this opinion survey, we published our "New Business Policy for the 30th Anniversary of JFGE".

In the published document, the goal for the next 10 years of JFGE is defined as "Enhancing regional sustainability by solving social issues centered on the environment: Simultaneously solving social issues and realizing new growth for environmental NPOs". Under these circumstances where environmental and social issues are delicately intertwined, it becomes necessary to aim for regional sustainability with the participation of diverse actors in each region. We believe that for regional sustainability to be achieved, it is necessary to build a model that creates social impact built around a mid- to long-term strategy, and then introduce this to other regions. Furthermore, when focusing on environmental NPOs, a lack of supporters, weak financial and organizational foundations, and a lack of successors have traditionally been major issues. We believe that it is necessary to create a mechanism for new growth of environmental NPOs, not through temporary support, but by strengthening the foundation of their activities during the grant period, thereby broadening the circle of cooperation and contributing to the sustainable development of their activities and organizational growth. Through the simultaneous achievement of these two goals, we hope to contribute to the realization of a sustainable society. Accordingly, the following three new policies will be adopted for the grant program.

The first policy is to expand support for activities that address social issues and community development. Until now, our Entry Grant program has been available for organizations younger than 10 years, but this requirement has been eliminated to encourage organizations to take on new activities regardless of the number of years they have existed. In addition, our Continuous-Project Grant and General Grant programs will support not only activities that are "continuing" or "expanding", but also a variety of other endeavors, including mechanism and network building.

The second policy is the creation of two types of "Strategic Projects" aimed at solving medium- to long-term issues through collaboration among multiple actors. These are: "Policy Issue Collaboration," in which policy issues are addressed in collaboration with activities expected of civil society; and "Community Collaboration," in which multiple actors in the community work together to create a sustainable community.

The third policy is to enhance support for strengthening the activity base for sustainable development of activities. Specifically, support will be provided to strengthen the foundation of activities by expanding the scope of subsidies for personnel expenses and promoting commercialization and collaboration by intermediate support entities and similar. The plan is to first introduce this third policy to Strategic Projects in FY2025, and then apply it to all programs starting in FY2026.

Based on the new grant policy, we expect to carry out reviews of JFGE's evaluation and promotion programs before the end of FY2024. We are sincerely looking forward to receiving applications from any organizations that are working to solve social issues and realize the growth of environmental NPOs based on our new business policy to be launched in FY2025.

"New Business Policy for the 30th Anniversary of JFGE" (June 2024):  
<https://www.erca.go.jp/jfge/subsidy/application/30th.html>

# Major changes for FY2025

## 1. Changes and additions to grant programs (p. 9)

- (1) The three types of grant programs, "Entry Grant," "Continuous-Project Grant," and "General Grant," have been consolidated into two types, "Regular Grant (Basic)" and "Regular Grant (Development)".
- (2) "Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)" and "Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)" have been newly established as grant programs based on collaboration among multiple actors.
- (3) New applications will not be accepted for the "Entry Grant," "Continuous-Project Grant," "General Grant," "Platform Grant," "Front-Runner Grant," and "Special Grant (Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres Grant)" due to the changes and additions to the grant programs detailed in (1) and (2) above. Organizations with ongoing grants may continue to request their current grant program until the conclusion of the grant period.
- (4) The grant period for LOVE BLUE grants has been changed from a maximum of three years to one year (please refer to the separate application guide).

## 2. Expansion of grant coverage for personnel expenses and discontinuation of the development program for young project leaders (p. 16)

- (1) Since it is important to promote efforts during the grant period to ensure sustainable development of activities after the conclusion of the grant and to secure a budget, personnel expenses related to grant activities will be covered by the grants regardless of employment status from FY2025 onward (wages related to the promotion of grant activities will be covered not only for part-time employees but also for full-time employees). However, the initial introduction in FY2025 is planned as part of the new grant programs for "Strategic Projects", to be followed by an introduction to all remaining programs from FY2026. Please note that the amount that can be requested for certain programs will differ between FY2025 and FY2026 onwards, due to the phased introduction of the expanded coverage.
- (2) New applications will no longer be accepted for the program to support the development of young project leaders, which up until now has been subsidizing the wages of full-time employees as an activity promotion expense. Human resource development, including that of young people, is scheduled to be implemented as part of JFGE's promotion program in the future.

## 3. Establishment of expenses for strengthening activity base (p. 17)

To enable environmental NPOs to expand the scale and results of their activities and grow even further after the conclusion of the grant, the category of "activity base strengthening expenses" has been established for use in the support of aspects that form the base of grant activities. However, the initial introduction in FY2025 is planned as part of the "Strategic Project" programs, to be followed by an introduction to all remaining programs starting in FY2026.

## 4. Revision of policies and methods for review and examination (p. 29, 34)

The examination policy has been revised based on the changes described in items (1) to (3) above as well as other factors. In addition, while examinations previously only took the form of a review of submitted documentation, examinations in the form of online hearings will be introduced for the "Strategic Project" programs.

# Table of Contents

1. Outline of JFGE .....	1
2. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (common items for all programs) .....	5
(1) Grant Request Period.....	5
(2) Flow of Proceedings After Request Submission .....	5
(3) Requirements for Applicant Organizations .....	6
(4) Requirements for Activities Pertaining to the Applications.....	7
(5) Target Regions for Activities .....	9
(6) Grant Period .....	9
(7) Grant Program for Applicants (for Organizations submitting new grant requests in FY2025).....	9
(8) Grant Program for Applicants (for Organizations with ongoing grant requests preceding FY2024) ..	11
(9) Transition from Ongoing Grant Programs to New Grant Programs.....	12
(10) Expenses Covered by the Grants (FY2025) .....	14
(11) Expansion of Grant Coverage for Personnel Expenses .....	16
(12) Establishment of Activity Base Strengthening Expenses .....	17
(13) Phased Expansion of Grant Amounts and the Expenses Covered by Grants .....	20
(14) Grant Payment Procedures .....	21
(15) Grants to Non-Japanese Private Organizations (Category B Projects) .....	22
(16) Other .....	24
(17) How to Submit Request Forms .....	25
3. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (Strategic Projects) .....	27
(1) Purpose of Strategic Project Programs .....	27
(2) Outline of Strategic Projects.....	27
(3) Stakeholder (SH) Meetings.....	29
(4) Examinations .....	29
(5) Application Details for the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) Program .....	30
(6) Application Details for the Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) Program .....	33
4. Examination Policy .....	34
5. Key Points for the Preparation of Request Forms .....	39

# 1. Outline of JFGE

## (1) Background of the Establishment of JFGE

In June 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (also known as the "Earth Summit") was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Most world nations (about 180 countries) took part in the conference that was attended by the heads of state and government of more than 100 countries, along with some 10,000 government representatives. On this occasion, the Japanese government announced its intention to develop a mechanism to provide financial support for environmental conservation activities by the private-sector. At the Earth Summit, the "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development" was issued to promote sustainable development, and the importance of citizens addressing environmental issues was made clear.

In response to this course of events, the then Environment Agency (the current Ministry of the Environment) took the lead in establishing JFGE in May 1993, with contributions from the government and private sector, to provide financial and other support for environmental conservation activities by private organizations (NGOs and NPOs).

JFGE has since actively supported the environmental conservation activities of NGOs and NPOs, going on to provide a total of 5,976 grants totaling approximately 19.4 billion yen during the period from FY1993 to FY2023.

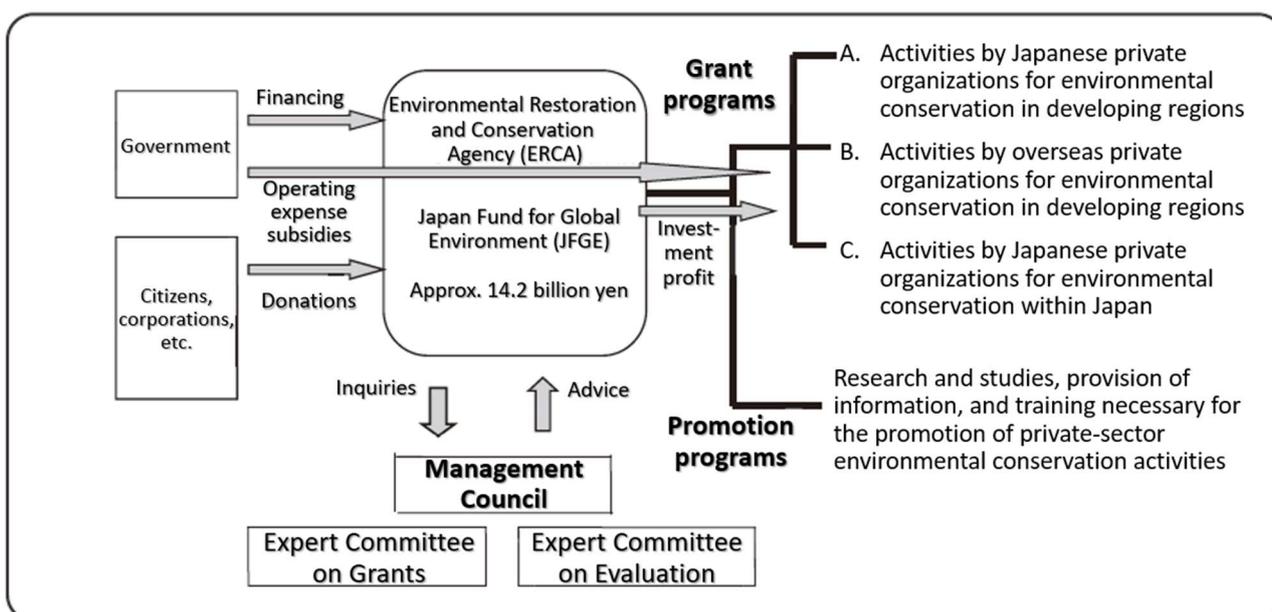
## (2) The Workings of JFGE

### ① Basic Structure

JFGE is a fund established based on contributions from both the government and the private sector, and uses investment income from the fund as well as operating expense subsidies from the government to subsidize and otherwise support environmental conservation activities conducted by private non-profit organizations (environmental NGOs and NPOs) in Japan as well as abroad.

### ② Operation of JFGE's Programs

The implementation of JFGE's programs is subject to the advice of the JFGE Management Council, which is made up of experienced academics. There are two expert committees positioned under the Management Council - the Expert Committee on Grants and the Expert Committee on Evaluations. The former deliberates on examination policies and specific recipients for the grant programs, while the latter evaluates grant activities from a professional standpoint.



### (3) The Goals of JFGE

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its establishment (in 2023), JFGE has formulated a new "vision" to enhance its support for strengthening environmental NGOs and NPOs that solve social issues and build communities through environmental conservation, and to solve various environmental, economic, and social issues in an integrated manner. The Fund's role in achieving this goal has in turn been defined as its "mission".

#### The Vision of JFGE

**In collaboration with diverse actors, JFGE contributes to the realization of a sustainable society by supporting the activities of environmental NGOs and NPOs which work to solve social issues and build communities through environmental conservation.**

For our future society, it will be important to transform the thoughts and aspirations of individual citizens into actions, and to solve various environmental, economic, and social issues that are closely correlated with each other in an integrated manner.

Environmental NGOs and NPOs are expected to play a major role in solving social issues and building communities by linking the efforts, opinions, and actions of individual citizens through their environmental conservation activities, and expanding the circle of such efforts while inspiring a sense of compassion in greater society.

The circle of activities needs to be expanded at various levels, from the local level based on the unique lifestyles, cultures, and economies of each locality, to the international and global levels involving people with diverse ideas, lifestyles and cultures. Diversity is also expected in the core environmental conservation activities of environmental NGOs and NPOs.

While respecting their autonomy, independence, and diversity, JFGE supports the activities of environmental NGOs and NPOs in partnership with diverse actors ranging from other support organizations, businesses, and governments, while also taking into account domestic and international circumstances as well as social changes. Through this support, JFGE contributes to the realization of a sustainable society that will enable future generations to inherit the Earth, the foundation of our prosperous way of life.

## Mission of JFGE

### **Activities of Environmental NGOs and NPOs**

- (1) Support for sustainable development of Environmental NGOs/NPOs (support for development of activities and organizational growth)**
- (2) Support aimed at strengthening the activity base (enhancing of financial and non-financial support to strengthen the activity base)**
- (3) Support for collaboration with diverse actors (promotion of collaboration with government, corporations, etc.)**
- (4) Support for cultivation of local leaders and framework-building (development of local infrastructure through environmental conservation)**

1. Environmental NGOs and NPOs are expected to make greater contributions toward the creation of a sustainable society. To this end, it is important for environmental NGOs/NPOs to grow through the strengthening of their professional skills, ability to make proposals, and ability to mobilize and disseminate information so as to ensure the sustainable development of their environmental conservation activities, as well as expand the circle of cooperation by promoting collaboration with other actors, while respecting their autonomy, independence, and diversity. As these efforts come to fruition, they are expected to inspire in citizens a sense of sympathy and trust, expand in scope, and solve various environmental, economic, and social issues in an integrated manner.

JFGE aims to expand its support so that environmental NGOs/NPOs that live up to these expectations, and have earned the sympathy and trust of society, will develop sustainably and grow through the strengthening of their activity base.

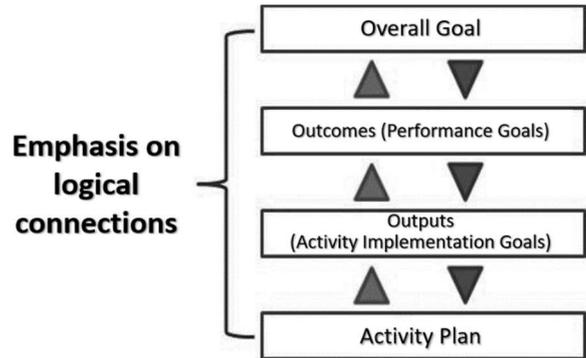
2. Local efforts are essential for a sustainable society. JFGE will support environmental NGOs/NPOs in building partnerships with diverse actors, including governments, businesses, and other support organizations, to develop activities capable of contributing to the community, while advancing community development through such efforts as the cultivation of local leaders and framework-building.

**(4) Features of JFGE grants**

JFGE grants provide financial and other support for environmental conservation activities conducted by private organizations. The Fund aims to contribute to global environmental conservation by helping organizations plan, implement, and achieve results in accordance with goals set in advance.

**① Grants are outcome- and strategy-oriented**

Emphasis is placed on the concrete and effective organization of an activity plan for achieving the desired state of the environment that the grant activity ultimately aims to achieve. In other words, JFGE expects grant recipients to implement their activities and achieve their performance objectives in accordance with established logical connections (a logic model).



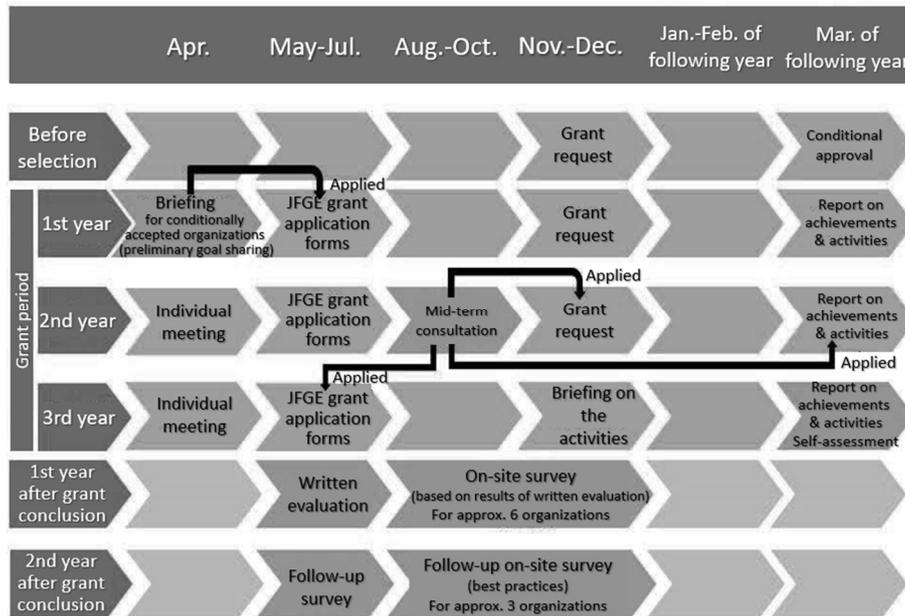
For activities to carry on and independently move toward an overall goal even after the grant period concludes, grant recipients should, from the outset, carry out their activities with a vision in mind, that is also incorporated into their plans.

(For more information on logic models, see "5. Key Points for the Preparation of Request Forms".)

**② An evaluation system is in place to improve the results of grant activities**

At the time of request during the first year of a regular grant, JFGE and the recipient confirm the overall goal, outcome goals, output goals, and the activity plan [→ preliminary goal sharing]. In the second year, the grant recipient meets with external experts (members of the Expert Committee on Evaluations) who confirm the progress that has been achieved and offer advice [→ mid-term consultation]. While these are steps that are carried out during the grant period, an evaluation of the results is also carried out after the conclusion of the grant activities. (The evaluation scheme is subject to change after FY2025 due to the establishment of new grant programs, etc.)

**Evaluation Schedule for JFGE Grants (for projects operating under a 3-year plan)**



**③ Mainly financed through public funding**

JFGE grants are financed by operating expense subsidies from the Japanese government in addition to the fund's investment income. Consequently, both us at JFGE and the recipient organizations are required to be accountable for the use of grant funds and for the results achieved. Additionally, as the grants are subject to the "Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies", the submission of documentary evidence is required in principle for the payment of grants, and said evidence must then be kept for a certain period of time after the conclusion of the grant.

## 2. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (common items for all programs)

### (1) Grant Request Period

#### Common to both new and ongoing grant programs

12:00 p.m. November 11, 2024 (Mon) to 1:00 p.m. December 2, 2024 (Mon)

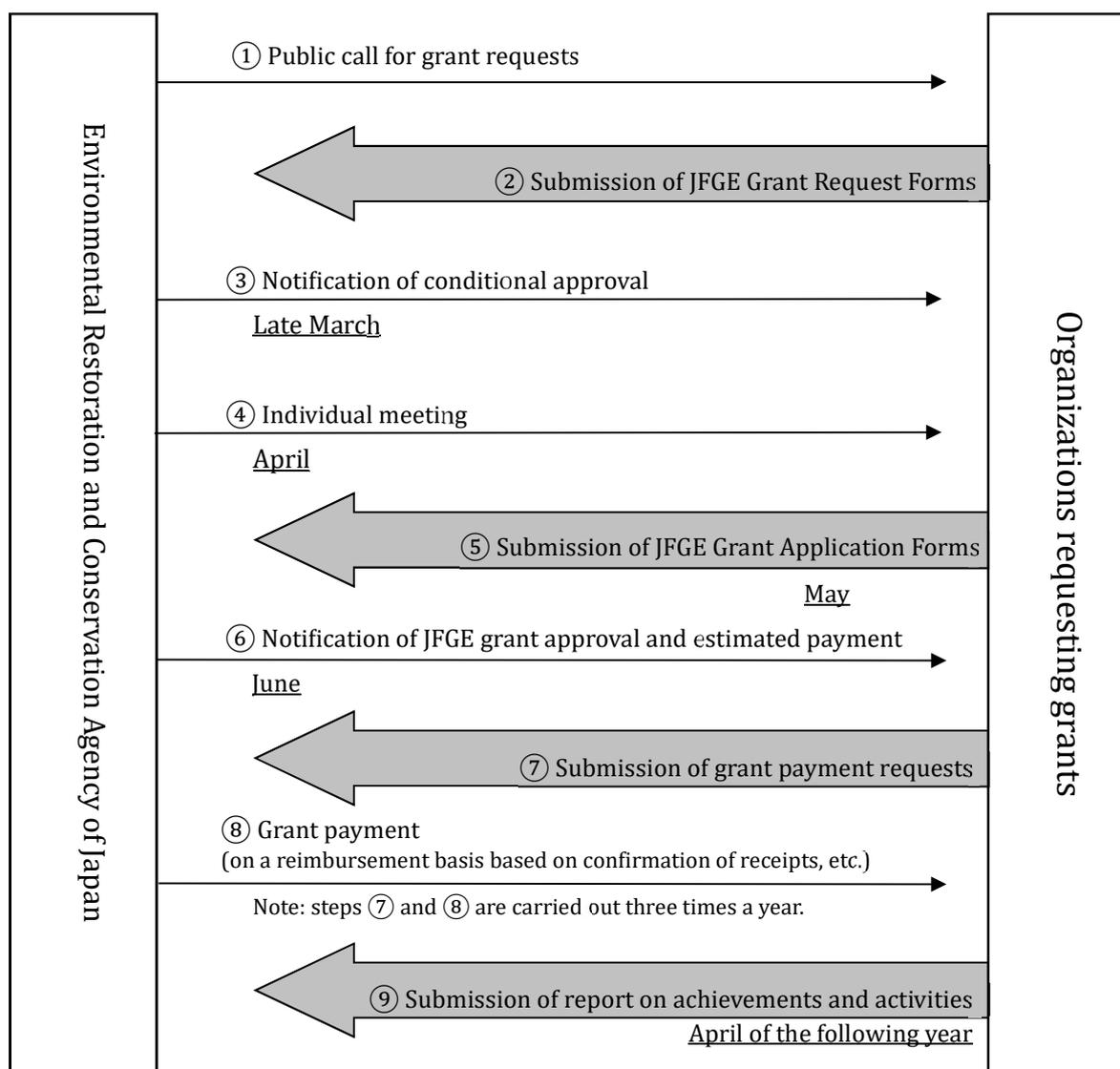
**\*Requests to be submitted via the online "JFGE Grant Application System".**

**\*Requests submitted after the above request period has ended will not be accepted.  
When planning to submit a request, please be sure to leave adequate time for preparation.**

If you have difficulty submitting your application through the JFGE Grant Application System, please contact JFGE (via the contact information on the back cover).

Please note that any requests sent to us by other means (postal mail, e-mail, or delivered in person) will, in principle, not be accepted.

### (2) Flow of Proceedings After Request Submission



### (3) Requirements for Applicant Organizations

Those eligible to receive grants are private organizations engaged in environmental conservation activities that fall into one of the following categories:

① Corporations engaging in specified non-profit activities

Corporations engaging in specified non-profit activities established under the provisions of Article 10 of the Act on Promotion of Specified Non-profit Activities (Act No. 7 of 1998)

② General incorporated associations, general incorporated foundations, public interest incorporated associations, public interest incorporated foundations

Corporations established under the Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations (Act No. 48 of 2006) (including corporations authorized under the Act on Authorization of Public Interest Incorporated Associations and Public Interest Incorporated Foundations (Act No. 49 of 2006)) or similar non-profit corporations (excluding those falling under category ①).

③ Private organizations

Private, not-for-profit organizations without corporate status that meet all of the following conditions:

- a. The organization has by-laws in place, corresponding to articles of incorporation or articles of contribution.
- b. The organization has an established structure to make decisions for the organization and to execute the activities related to the request.
- c. The organization has an accounting system in place, capable of accounting for and auditing itself.
- d. The organization has an office functioning as the base of its activities.
- e. It can be recognized that the organization will be capable of reliably implementing the activities related to the request in view of their track record of activities, etc.

However, even if an organization fulfills all of the above, it will not be eligible if;

- 1) The organization has any connection to an organized crime group as defined in the Act on Prevention of Unjust Acts by Organized Crime Group Members, or to an organization under the control of such a group.
- 2) If the organization has, within the past three years, faced measures such as the revocation of a grant decision, an order for restitution, or penalties based on the "Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies, etc." for the grant project in question, or for other subsidized or grant-funded projects, or, when a director of the organization at the time of said measure is included as a representative or equivalent within the organization.

## (4) Requirements for Activities Pertaining to the Applications

### ① Field

The fields of activity covered by the grants are environmental conservation activities conducted by private non-profit organizations (NGOs and NPOs) (in a wide range of areas such as the creation of a decarbonized society, conservation of biodiversity, and the building of a recycling-oriented society).

### ② Classification

Activities are broadly categorized in the following manner, according to the location of the organization and the place of activity.

- Category A projects: Activities by Japanese private organizations for environmental conservation in developing regions
- Category B projects: Activities by non-Japanese private organizations for environmental conservation in developing regions
- Category C projects: Activities by Japanese private organizations for environmental conservation within Japan

\*In the case of activities in developing regions, the applicant organization must already have a track record of activities in the target region.

\*Please refer to (5) Target Regions for Activities (p. 9) for details concerning the regions to be targeted by the activities.

### ③ Type

Grants are provided for a wide range of activity types in the following four categories.

- a. Practical implementation
- b. Provision and dissemination of knowledge
- c. Surveys and research
- d. International conferences

#### **\* Note that the following activities are not eligible for grants.**

- 1) Activities carried out as part of the policy measures of a national administrative body of either Japan or the nation where the activities are to be implemented.
- 2) Activities carried out for the benefit of a specific business operator.
- 3) Activities for which the recovery of grant funds is anticipated through loans, financing, investments, or other means.
- 4) Activities deemed to be carried out for the purpose of political and/or religious propaganda.
- 5) Activities that will receive funding from sources other than the JFGE, such as through subsidies, grants, or commissioned funds (NGO grant aid, NGO project subsidies, JICA Grassroots Technical Cooperation, Children's Dream Fund, Welfare and Medical Service Agency (WAM) subsidies, Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres Support System Development Project, etc.) from the government or from Japanese government bodies.
- 6) Activities that extend financial assistance or grants to other organizations, etc.
- 7) Other activities that are deemed inappropriate and unsuitable for private organizations to undertake.

#### **\* Compliance with laws and regulations**

Please ensure that your activities comply with all laws and regulations (in the case of overseas activities, this includes the laws and regulations of the country wherein the activities will take place). In addition, if you are going to engage in activities that require a permit, such as NGO registration in the country of activity, please make sure to obtain such permits. If any violation of laws and regulations is brought to light, e.g. a permit required for an activity is found to have not been obtained, grants will not be provided.

## Classification Method for Fields of Activity

\*The fields of activity selected when making the application may be changed during the JFGE review process.

Field of activity		Examples of means of carrying out activities
Activities for the conservation of biodiversity	a. Protection, conservation and restoration of nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for the protection of valuable natural areas from a national perspective</li> <li>• Ecological surveys for the protection of endangered wildlife</li> <li>• Activities to conserve wildlife habitats, etc. and to protect migratory birds</li> <li>• Measures against invasive species, and activities for the protection and management of birds and animals, etc.</li> </ul>
	b. Forest conservation and tree/grass planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities for preserving nationally valuable forests</li> <li>• Activities for afforestation and greening of mountainous and devastated lands other than deserts</li> <li>• Conservation of secondary natural forests, satoyama (areas consisting of production ecosystems like secondary forests, farmlands, irrigation ponds, and grasslands as well as human settlements), etc.</li> </ul>
	c. Anti-desertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afforestation and greening in and around desert areas</li> <li>• Activities to promote appropriate irrigation, etc.</li> </ul>
	d. Environmental conservation-type agriculture, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of agroforestry</li> <li>• Promotion of the development and use of natural agricultural technologies</li> <li>• Activities for conservation of terraced rice paddies, etc.</li> </ul>
e. Climate change mitigation and adaptation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efforts to contribute to the shift away from fossil fuels (promotion of and conversion to the use of renewable energy, promotion of energy conservation, conversion to renewable resources*, etc.)</li> <li>• Activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Activities to facilitate adaptation to global warming, etc.</li> </ul>
f. Building of a recycling-oriented society		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling of resources</li> <li>• Activities for proper disposal of waste and the prevention of illegal dumping, etc.</li> </ul>
g. Air, water and soil conservation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air pollution prevention activities such as measures to protect the ozone layer or protect against acid rain</li> <li>• Prevention of water pollution in rivers, lakes, and marshes, protection of marine environments, and measures against soil pollution</li> <li>• Activities to promote measures against hazardous chemicals, etc.</li> </ul>
Cross-sector activities	h. Comprehensive environmental education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)</li> <li>• Promotion of comprehensive environmental education and learning in order to raise environmental awareness, etc.</li> <li>• Development of human resources capable of practically implementing environmental conservation activities through environmental education, etc.</li> </ul>
	i. Comprehensive environmental conservation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of cross-sector activities and mechanisms that are not specific to a particular field.</li> <li>• Environmentally conscious urban development through collaboration among local communities, corporations, and government</li> <li>• Environmental initiatives through green purchasing, environmental labels, etc.</li> <li>• Research and studies for comprehensive environmental policy proposals, etc.</li> </ul>
	j. Restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction activities in areas severely affected by disasters</li> <li>• Activities to promote combined climate change and disaster prevention efforts and adaptation based on climate change risks</li> </ul>
k. Other environmental conservation projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental conservation activities other than the above</li> </ul>

\*Renewable resources: paper, bioplastics made from renewable organic resources such as plants, etc.

## (5) Target Regions for Activities

Japan, developing regions\*<sup>1</sup>

\*Definition of developing regions:

Countries that are specified in the List of Recipients of Official Development Assistance approved by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

(Web address of the List of Recipients of Official Development Assistance)

<https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf>

## (6) Grant Period

One year, from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

\* If the activities are for FY2025, those undertaken from April 1, 2025 to the date of JFGE grant approval are also eligible for the grant.

## (7) Grant Program for Applicants

(for organizations submitting new grant requests in FY2025)

Please select one of the following grant programs for each of the organization's activities you are applying for. Please note that you may be selected for a different grant program than the one you applied for as a result of the examination.

	Regular Grant	
	Basic	Development
<b>Outline</b>	Support for organizations that are willing challenge themselves with new environmental conservation activities based on their own originality and ingenuity.	Support for organizations that strive to establish their existing environmental conservation activities, to grow their organization and solve social issues.
<b>Target organizations</b>	Organizations with at least one year of experience in the field related to the grant activities.	
<b>Activities targeted by the grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Novel activities for environmental conservation</li> <li>Preparation/laying of groundwork for conservation activities, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities aimed at creating frameworks for the development of environmental conservation activities through cooperation and collaboration with various actors</li> <li>Activities that contribute to the creation of future social impact based on existing environmental conservation activities such as surveys and public awareness raising</li> <li>Activities to promote domestic initiatives on the occasion of international conferences, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Grant period</b>	1 year	Up to 3 years
<b>Range of grant amounts</b>	500,000 - 2,000,000 yen	2,000,000 - 6,000,000 yen (2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen from FY2026)
<b>Target projects</b>	Category A, B, C projects	

	<b>Strategic Projects</b>	
	<b>Policy Issue Collaboration (Representative Organization)</b>	<b>Community Collaboration</b>
<b>Outline</b>	Projects that address policy issues in collaboration with activities expected of civil society	Projects that work on the cultivation of local leaders and the building of frameworks for developing sustainable communities
<b>Target organizations</b>	Organizations with at least three years of experience in the field related to the grant activities.	
<b>Activities targeted by the grant</b>	Activities that aim to solve set policy issues in cooperation with multiple actors	Activities to build collaborative systems and to cultivate local leaders and build frameworks to solve local issues
<b>Grant period</b>	Up to 5 years (Stage-gate process adopted, e.g. "feasibility study → practical implementation → self-sustaining development")	
<b>Range of grant amounts</b>	2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen (1st year) 8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen (2nd to 5th year)	
<b>Target projects</b>	Category C projects	

\*1 For more information on the LOVE BLUE grant, please refer to the "Application Guide (separate volume)".

\*2 For details on the representative organization for Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration), please refer to p. 31.

\*3 The track record of activities is based on the number of years as of April 1, 2025.

\*4 Since the range of JFGE grant amounts available is that for the amounts requested by the applicant organization at the time of application, there is a possibility that the grant amount of the conditional approval or that determined after conditional approval may be less than the minimum amount specified in the range.

**(8) Grant Program for Applicants**

(for organizations with ongoing grant requests preceding FY2024)

	<b>Continuous-Project Grant</b>	<b>General Grant</b>	<b>Front-Runner Grant</b>
<b>Outline</b>	Support for activities started with the aim of taking root in the community to develop continually and become established as sustainable activities.	Support for organizations to improve their problem-solving skills, develop more effective activities, and further develop their organization.	Support for Japanese environmental NGOs and NPOs to take the lead in creating new models and institutions for civil society.
<b>Activities targeted by the grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that contribute to environmental conservation</li> <li>• Activities that aim to sustain the above environmental conservation activities</li> <li>• Activities that aim for development in collaboration with various other actors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that contribute to environmental conservation</li> <li>• Activities that tackle emergent issues or topics, or utilize new methodologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental conservation activities that seek to create new values and institutions</li> </ul>
<b>Grant period</b>	Up to 3 years (limited to one grant per organization)	Up to 3 years	In principle, 3 years (upon submission of a five-year activity plan at the time of request, grants may be awarded for up to five years, depending on progress and the results of a third-party evaluation)
<b>Range of grant amounts</b>	500,000 - 3,000,000 yen	2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen (Category A projects) 2,000,000 - 6,000,000 yen (Category B, C projects)	6,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen
<b>Target projects</b>	Category A, B, C projects	Category A, B, C projects	Category A, C projects

	<b>Platform Grant</b>	<b>Special Grant (Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres)</b>
<b>Outline</b>	Support for Japanese environmental NGOs/NPOs to play a major role in solving specific environmental issues through cross-sector collaboration and cooperation with other NGOs/NPOs.	Support for the preparation and establishment of a foundation for activities that aim to solve integrated environmental, social, and economic issues in cooperation and collaboration with local governments, corporations, and various stakeholders, and that will play a central role in the creation of a regional circular and ecological sphere.
<b>Activities targeted by the grant</b>	Activities for environmental conservation that are aimed at establishing a foundation for collaboration among various organizations to engage in and solve environmental issues through cooperation and collaboration.	Activities for the preparation and establishment of a foundation for activities that aim to solve integrated environmental, social, and economic issues in cooperation and collaboration with local governments, corporations, and various stakeholders, and that will play a central role in the creation of a regional circular and ecological sphere.
<b>Grant period</b>	Up to 3 years (If there is a clearly defined target year, such as when an international conference will take place, an extension may be granted up to that year. After that, applications pertaining to the same subject will not be selected for the foreseeable future.)	Up to 2 years
<b>Range of grant amounts</b>	2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen	500,000 - 2,000,000 yen
<b>Target projects</b>	Category A, C projects	Category C projects

\*1 For more information on the LOVE BLUE grant, please refer to the "Application Guide (separate volume)".

\*2 The track record of activities is based on the number of years as of April 1, 2025.

\*3 Since the JFGE grant amounts available are those amounts requested by the applicant organization at the time of application, there is a possibility that the grant amount of the conditional approval or that determined after conditional approval may be less than the minimum amount specified.

## **(9) Transition from Ongoing Grant Programs to New Grant Programs**

Organizations that are currently continuing their grant activities may request to continue these until the end of their ongoing grant program. However, if there are concerns about the previous year's activities or if the activities pertaining to the initial request have changed significantly, their application may be rejected during the examination process. It is possible to apply for a new grant in the middle of an activity under an ongoing grant program, but in that case, the application will be considered as pertaining to a new project.

Please also confirm your eligibility for the new grant programs in advance, as you may find that JFGE's grant requirements described below prevent you from requesting the new programs.

- ① Organizations that have received the General Grant for six consecutive years may not request the new grant programs for two years following the conclusion of their grant. Such organizations may however apply for a Strategic Project grant.
- ② Organizations that receive a Front-Runner grant may not request the new grant programs for two years following the conclusion of their grant. Such organizations may however apply for a Strategic Project grant.
- ③ Organizations that, in succession, receive a Regular Grant (Development) for three years after having received a three-year General Grant may not request the new grant programs for two years following the conclusion of their total grant period. Such organizations may however apply for a Strategic Project grant.
- ④ Organizations that have received a Regular Grant (Development) for six consecutive years may not request the new grant programs for two years following the conclusion of their grant. Such organizations may however apply for a Strategic Project grant.

<Transition from ongoing grant programs>

Period of ongoing grant programs	Period of ongoing + new grant programs		Period of new grant programs
FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Entry Grant	(New grant programs available for request)		
Continuous-Project Grant (1st year)	Continuous-Project Grant (2nd year)	Continuous-Project Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)
Continuous-Project Grant (2nd year)	Continuous-Project Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)	
Continuous-Project Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)		
General Grant (1st year)	General Grant (2nd year)	General Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)
General Grant (2nd year)	General Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)	
General Grant (3rd year)	(New grant programs available for request)		

<Transition for organizations not eligible to apply for grants>

Period of ongoing grant programs	Period of ongoing + new grant programs		Period of new grant programs					
	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
General Grant (4th year)	General Grant (5th year)	General Grant (6th year)	Period of ineligibility *Application possible for Strategic Project grants.		(New grant programs available for request)			
General Grant (5th year)	General Grant (6th year)	Period of ineligibility *Application possible for Strategic Project grants.		(New grant programs available for request)				
General Grant (6th year)	Period of ineligibility *Application possible for Strategic Project grants.		(New grant programs available for request)					
General Grant (3rd year)	Regular Grant (Development) (1st year)	Regular Grant (Development) (2nd year)	Regular Grant (Development) (3rd year)	Period of ineligibility *Application possible for Strategic Project grants.		(New grant programs available for request)		
Front-Runner Grant (3rd year)	Front-Runner Grant (4th year)	Front-Runner Grant (5th year)	Period of ineligibility *Application possible for Strategic Project grants.		(New grant programs available for request)			
	Strategic Project (1st year)	Strategic Project (2nd year)	Strategic Project (3rd year)	Strategic Project (4th year)	Strategic Project (5th year)	(New grant programs available for request)		

\* Strategic Project programs may continue to be requested as part of the new grant programs after the conclusion of the 5-year grant period.

## (10) Expenses Covered by the Grants (FY2025)

JFGE provides grants to private organizations for environmental conservation activities carried out voluntarily and on their own initiative, to cover part of the direct costs of such activities and costs associated with building the infrastructure for such activities. Please see the table below for details on expenses covered by the grants.

From FY2026 onward, the expenses covered by grants will be expanded in accordance with the grant programs (with wages for full-time staff and expenses related to activity base strengthening to be included). Organizations requesting multi-year grant programs should therefore also refer to section "(13) Phased Expansion of Grant Amounts and the Expenses Covered by Grants".

\* In the below table, "upper limit" refers to the maximum amount that can be requested as a grant, and includes expenses for strengthening the activity base. For details, please refer to section "(12) Establishment of Activity Base Strengthening Expenses".

Category	Expense	Details
(1) Wages	Wages of part-time staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Part-time wages for non-regular staff</li> <li>○ Part-time wages for Agents in Category B projects</li> </ul>
	Wages of full-time staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Expenses for promoting young project leaders employed by the organization and tasked with grant activities (Upper limit: 1,800 yen/hour, Annual limit: total including part-time wages amounts to within 50% of the requested amount, and within 3.6 million yen. Limited to organizations with ongoing grants)</li> <li>○ For organizations that have requested "Strategic Project" grants, the wages for personnel employed by the organization in charge of promoting grant activities (Upper limit: total including part-time wages amounts to within 50% of the requested amount)</li> </ul>
(2) Honorariums	Honorariums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Honorariums for lecturers, experts, etc. (Upper limit: 20,000 yen/day)</li> <li>○ Honorariums for manuscripts (Upper limit: 2,400 yen per page)</li> <li>*Honorariums to salaried directors and employees of the organization are not covered by the grants. For non-salaried persons, applications can be made for up to 50% of the total amount of the lecturer's honorarium.</li> </ul>
(3) Travel expenses	Travel expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Airfare (economy class)</li> <li>○ Fares for railroads, buses, boats, etc.</li> <li>○ Airport fees, etc.</li> </ul>
	Accommodation expenses	○ Accommodation expenses (meals, per diem, and other allowances are not covered)
	Other	○ Expressway tolls, visa and passport issuance fees, travel insurance, etc.
(4) Materials and supplies	Purchases of materials and supplies (within 50% of the requested amount)	○ Expenses relating to the procurement of equipment, materials, and books

(5) Rental/services	Rental fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Venue rental expenses (expenses related to food and beverages are not covered) [In Japan: 200,000 yen/day (Upper limit), Overseas: 50,000 yen/day (Upper limit)]</li> <li>○ Equipment rental fees</li> </ul>
	Service expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Interpreter fees [Simultaneous interpretation: 80,000 yen/person/day, Consecutive interpretation: 45,500 yen/person/day (Upper limit)]</li> <li>○ Translation fees [Japanese translation: 5,000 yen/page, translations to other languages: 8,000 yen/page (Upper limit)]</li> <li>○ Printing costs</li> </ul>
	Vehicles	Fuel costs, vehicle rental and parking fees
	Outsourcing expenses (within 50% of the requested amount)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Surveys and other outsourcing expenses</li> <li>○ Building construction costs</li> <li>○ Equipment set up costs, etc.</li> </ul>
(6) Administrative expenses (not more than 10% of the total of (1) through (5))	Administrative expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Office supplies, communication charges, postage and handling fees</li> </ul>

#### Upper limit for accommodation expenses

- In Japan
  - Area A: not exceeding 8,700 yen  
Special wards of Tokyo (23 wards), Saitama City, Chiba City, Yokohama City, Kawasaki City, Sagami-hara City, Nagoya City, Kyoto City, Osaka City, Sakai City, Kobe City, Hiroshima City, Fukuoka City
  - Area B: not exceeding 7,800 yen      Areas other than those defined under Area A
- Overseas Designated cities: not exceeding 19,300 yen  
Singapore, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Washington, Geneva, London, Moscow, Paris, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Kuwait, Riyadh, Abidjan
  - Area A: not exceeding 16,100 yen      North America, Europe, Middle East
  - Area B: not exceeding 12,900 yen      Southeast Asia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Oceania
  - Area C: not exceeding 11,600 yen      South Asia, China, Latin America, Africa

\*If you are not sure which of the three area categories apply to you, please contact the secretariat.

Please note that the following expenses are not covered by the grants (Article 3 of the JFGE Grant Policies and Procedures).

- ① Honorariums for salaried directors and employees
- ② Donations, relief money, and gifts, etc. given to individuals or organizations
- ③ Expenses related to food and beverages

## (11) Expansion of Grant Coverage for Personnel Expenses

Since it is important to promote efforts during the grant period to ensure sustainable development of activities after the conclusion of the grant and to secure a budget, personnel expenses related to grant activities will be covered by the grants regardless of employment status from FY2025 onward. The initial introduction is planned as part of the "Strategic Project" programs in FY2025, followed by its introduction to all remaining programs starting in FY2026.

### <New grant programs>

		FY2025	From FY2026 (planned)
Regular Grant (Basic & Development)	Wages of full-time staff	Not covered by grants	The <u>total amount of category "(1) Wages" of the expenses covered by grants, limited to within 40% of the requested grant amount, regardless of employment system.</u>
	Wages of part-time staff	Upper limit: 1,200 yen/hour Grant request amounts of 4 million yen or less: 1,150,000 yen Grant request amounts between 4 million and 6 million yen: 1,720,000 yen (The maximum annual cumulative amount per part-time worker is 1,150,000 yen.)	
Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)	Wages of full-time staff	The <u>total amount of category "(1) Wages" of the expenses covered by grants, limited to within 50% of the requested grant amount, regardless of the employment system.</u>	
	Wages of part-time staff		
Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)	Wages of full-time staff		
	Wages of part-time staff		

\*Grant coverage details for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) only apply to representative organizations selected in FY2025.

### <Ongoing grant programs>

		FY2025	FY2026 (planned)	From FY2027
Ongoing grant programs	Wages of full-time staff	Not covered by grants	The <u>total amount of category "(1) Wages" of the expenses covered by grants, limited to within 40% of the requested grant amount, regardless of employment system.</u>	
	Wages of part-time staff	Upper limit: 1,200 yen/hour Grant request amounts of 4 million yen or less: 1,150,000 yen Grant request amounts between 4 million and 8 million yen: 1,720,000 yen Grant request amounts exceeding 8 million yen: 2,300,000 yen (The maximum annual cumulative amount per part-time worker is 1,150,000 yen.)		

\*1 The definitions of full-time and part-time staff are as follows:

Full-time staff: Those who are employed by the applicant organization, working at minimum 4 days a week or 15 days a month, and for at least 32 hours a week.

Part-time staff: Persons who do not fall within the above definition.

\*2 Wages paid to directors of the organization, whether full-time or part-time, are not covered by the grants.

\*3 The rule establishing an upper limit of 1,800 yen/hour for the part-time wages of Agents in Category B projects is also scheduled to be abolished from FY2026 onward, but the maximum annual cumulative amount of 360,000 yen for part-time wages of such Agents will be kept.

\*4 The grant amount for expenses for promoting young project leaders for FY2025 will be the same as in FY2024, with an upper limit of 1,800 yen per hour, and with the total amount, including part-time wages, limited to within 50% of the requested grant amount and within 3.6 million yen.

\*5 Organizations requesting a Strategic Project grant program with coverage for the wages of full-time staff should describe the role of such staff in grant activities on the separate "Application Form for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)" or "Application Form for Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)". (For details, please refer to section "(17) How to Submit Request Forms")

## (12) Establishment of Activity Base Strengthening Expenses

### ① Strengthening the activity base

Strengthening the activity base refers to the strengthening of the system for grant activities, mainly through the initiatives listed below, in order to ensure the sustainable development of grant activities and the growth of environmental NPOs themselves as a result of these activities. Distinct from the direct expenses in implementing grant activities, it involves the know-how, etc. that will be accumulated within the organization even after the conclusion of the grant, upon which it is expected that grant activities will be further developed.

1) Initiatives for *human resource development of staff* managing grant activities

(Examples)

- Training on project management to advance grant projects
- Acquiring of industry research methods to analyze the market for products to be developed through grant activities

2) Initiatives to *establish a system for activities* within the grant recipient's organization

(Examples)

- Conducting reviews of the objective strengths and challenges relating to grant activities by way of third-party advisors
- Expert consultations on use of pro bono services to supplement necessary skills and on implementation of fundraising to diversify financial resources
- Participation in networking events with other sectors, etc.

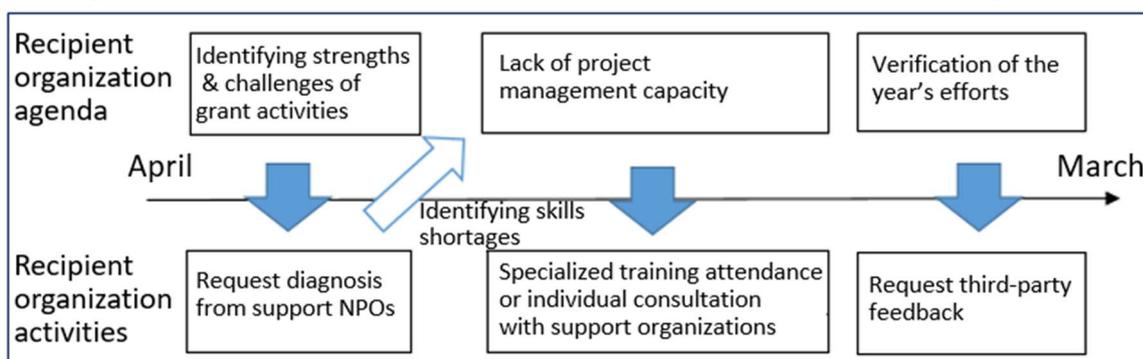
### ② Purpose behind the establishment of activity base strengthening expenses

In order to ensure the continuation of grant projects not only during the grant period but also after the conclusion of the grant activities, and to grow the organization of environmental NPOs, not only activity expenses but also expenses that contribute to strengthening the activity base will be covered by the grants. Specifically, this relates to initiatives and efforts aimed at building a base for grant projects as described in the above examples, the expenses for which will be covered by the grant.

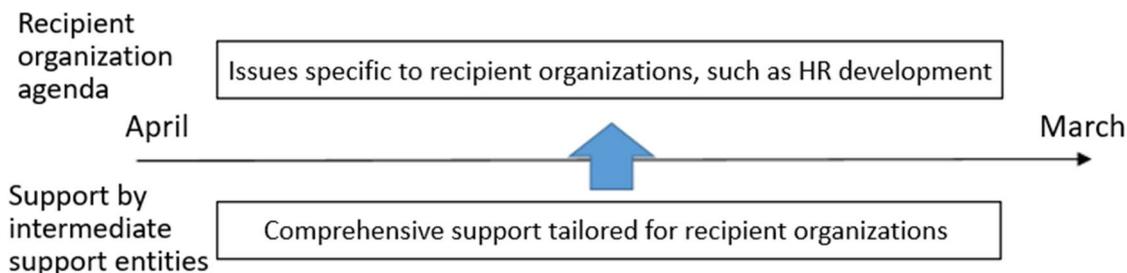
### ③ Conditions for implementing activity base strengthening

1) When implementing activity base strengthening, it is not necessary to allocate the activity base strengthening expenses for the entire grant period, but rather for that period necessary depending on the status of the organization's activities. Some specific examples include the following:

<Taking measures at times when action is needed to address individual challenges>



<Collaborating with an intermediate support entity throughout the year>



- 2) Please limit the amount of activity base strengthening expenses to approximately 10% of the requested grant amount.
- 3) The initial introduction is planned as part of the Strategic Project programs in FY2025, followed by introduction to all remaining programs starting in FY2026. Initiatives towards activity base strengthening are optional across all grant programs. As stated under “Sustainability” on p. 35 of the examination policy, if a company intends to strengthen its activity base based on an appropriate understanding of the challenges involved, it will receive additional points in the examination process.

**④ Expenses covered for activity base strengthening**

When allocating activity base strengthening expenses, please list these separately from regular activity expenses in "Request Form No. 3-2 [Budget Breakdown by Activity]". Please refer to the Request Form Submission Manual for specific instructions. Listing is allowed under all expense categories from "(1) Wages" to "(6) Administrative expenses". The amount of the expenses covered will be limited to the amount of the conditional approval or the amount of the approved grant.

Item	Expense details (example)
① Wages	Wages for staff (including part-time staff) tasked with strengthening the activity base
② Honorariums	Honorariums to advisors, intermediate support entities, etc.
③ Travel expenses	Travel expenses to attend training and to cover visits by advisors, etc. aimed at strengthening the activity base
④ Materials and supplies	Purchase of books, etc. for acquisition of know-how
⑤ Rental/services	Commission fees for advisors, intermediate support entities, etc.
⑥ Administrative expenses	Office supplies, communication charges, and other expenses necessary to strengthen the activity base

\*The maximum amount of each expense is the same as stated in section "(10) Expenses Covered by the Grants (FY2025)". The maximum amount of expenses for items for which an upper limit is set is the total of the activity expenses and the activity base strengthening expenses. Please refer to the next page for specific examples.

<Reference: Expenditure estimation when utilizing the activity base strengthening expense category (Example)>

Expense item	Expense details	Amount	Remarks
① Wages	Activity expenses	4,500,000 yen	The total for wages does not exceed 50% of the requested amount
	Activity base strengthening expenses	500,000 yen	
	Total, wages	5,000,000 yen	
② Honorariums	Activity expenses	150,000 yen	
	Activity base strengthening expenses	100,000 yen	
	Total, honorariums	250,000 yen	
③ Travel expenses	Activity expenses	2,000,000 yen	
	Activity base strengthening expenses	50,000 yen	
	Total, travel expenses	2,050,000 yen	
④ Materials and supplies	Activity expenses	50,000 yen	The total for materials and supplies does not exceed 50% of the requested amount
	Activity base strengthening expenses	0 yen	
	Total, materials and supplies	50,000 yen	
⑤ Rental/services	Activity expenses	2,000,000 yen	Outsourcing expenses do not exceed 50% of the requested amount
	Activity base strengthening expenses	300,000 yen	
	Total, rentals/services	2,300,000 yen	
⑥ Administrative expenses	Activity expenses	300,000 yen	The total for administrative expenses does not exceed 10% of the total of items ① through ⑤.
	Activity base strengthening expenses	50,000 yen	
	Total, administrative expenses	350,000 yen	
Total, activity expenses		9,000,000 yen	Approx. 10% of total requested amount
Total, activity base strengthening expenses		1,000,000 yen	
Total requested amount		10,000,000 yen	Within range of grant amounts for grant program

## ⑤ Documents to be submitted

Organizations requesting a Strategic Project program grant and working to strengthen their activity base are requested to describe their challenges, activity plans, budget, etc. related to the strengthening of their activity base on the separate "Application Form for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)" or "Application Form for Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)". (For details, please refer to section "(17) How to Submit Request Forms")

<How to fill in the request form for activity base strengthening expenses>

Form	Details to list
Request Form No. 3-2 [Budget Breakdown by Activity]	Please list both regular activity expenses and activity base strengthening expenses, and record these as separate items in the breakdown.
Separate forms: "Application Form for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)", "Application Form for Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)"	Only list activity base strengthening expenses.

### (13) Phased Expansion of Grant Amounts and the Expenses Covered by Grants

Due to the transition from the feasibility study stage to the practical implementation stage for Strategic Projects, as well as the phased expansion of expenses covered by the Regular Grants and ongoing grant programs, the range of grant amounts available for some programs will change during the grant period.

If you are considering applying for a grant with a multi-year grant period, in describing the activities of the second and third years under "No. 2-2 [Description of Activities for which a Grant is Sought]" and "No. 2-5 [Implementation Schedule of Activities]" of the Grant Request Form, please do so based on the expanded coverage.

<New grant programs (from FY2025)>

Program name		FY2025	FY2026 onward
Regular Grant	Basic	Range of grant amounts: 500,000 - 2,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 500,000 - 2,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
	Development	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - <u>6,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - <u>8,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
Strategic Projects	Policy Issue Collaboration *Representative organizations only	Range of grant amounts: <u>2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: covered Activity base strengthening expenses: covered (optional)	Range of grant amounts: <u>8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: covered Activity base strengthening expenses: covered (optional)
	Community Collaboration	Range of grant amounts: <u>2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: covered Activity base strengthening expenses: covered (optional)	Range of grant amounts: <u>8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: covered Activity base strengthening expenses: covered (optional)

<Ongoing grant programs (up to FY2026)>

Program name	FY2025	FY2026
Continuous-Project Grant	Range of grant amounts: 500,000 - 3,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 500,000 - 3,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
General Grant	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - <u>6,000,000 yen</u> (*) Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - <u>8,000,000 yen</u> Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
Front-Runner Grant	Range of grant amounts: 6,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 6,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
Platform Grant	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	Range of grant amounts: 2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: <u>covered</u> Activity base strengthening expenses: <u>covered</u> (optional)
Special Grant	Range of grant amounts: 500,000 - 2,000,000 yen Wages of full-time staff: not covered Activity base strengthening expenses: not covered	/

\*For the General Grant (Category B, C projects). The range of grant amounts available for the General Grant (Category A project) is between 2,000,000 and 8,000,000 yen for both FY2025 and FY2026.

## (14) Grant Payment Procedures

- ① Payment on a reimbursement basis: In principle
- ② Partial payment based on estimation: If an organization has passed the examination process (Article 12 of the JFGE Grant Policies and Procedures)

In principle, grants from JFGE are paid on a reimbursement basis. However, if the organization has certain administrative processing capabilities and systems in place, and there is a need to make payments based on estimations received by the organization, it is possible to request payment based on such estimation, for up to 50% of the grant amount applied for. Eligible organizations will be contacted to this effect at the time of notification of conditional approval.

Organizations approved for grants with payment based on estimations must apply for payment on the occasion of the first grant payment request. If the amount spent during the year is less than the amount paid based on the estimation, the remainder shall be refunded to JFGE.

For reimbursement-based payments, the grant will be paid after activities are initiated and copies of documentary evidence related to the expenses incurred in the process are submitted to and confirmed by JFGE. Therefore, the organization must separately provide the necessary funds for the initial activities on their own.

The collection of fees from participants in seminars and other activities conducted as part of grant activities is allowed. However, income generated from the execution of activities (collected participation fees, etc.) should be allocated to the grant activities as "own funds" (to fund expenses not covered by the grant, etc.).

### **JFGE grants are subject to the Act on Regulation of Subsidies**

JFGE grants are subject to the "Act on Regulation of Execution of Budget Pertaining to Subsidies" and therefore require strict inspection to ensure that the documentary evidence submitted at the time of payment is of eligible expenses, and that the date, payment details, payee, face value, basis for calculation, etc. are legible. Even in the case of partial payment based on estimation, documentary evidence must be submitted at the time of reimbursement.

(Article 11 of the Act on the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency,  
Independent Administrative Agency)

## (15) Grants to Non-Japanese Private Organizations (Category B Projects)

### ① Grant programs for Category B projects

Concerning grants to non-Japanese private organizations (Category B projects), the following grant programs are available.

- 1) Regular Grant (Basic)
- 2) Regular Grant (Development)
- 3) Continuous-Project Grant (only for organizations with ongoing grants)
- 4) General Grant (only for organizations with ongoing grants)

### ② Role of the Agent

When applying for a grant program, non-Japanese organizations are required to appoint as their "Agent" an individual or corporation in some way involved in environmental conservation activities, and to carry out requests, applications, and other procedures through this appointed Agent.

### ③ Qualifications and duties of the Agent, and Agent-related expenses

#### A. Qualifications of the Agent

The Agent shall be a person or organization that satisfies either 1) or 2) below.

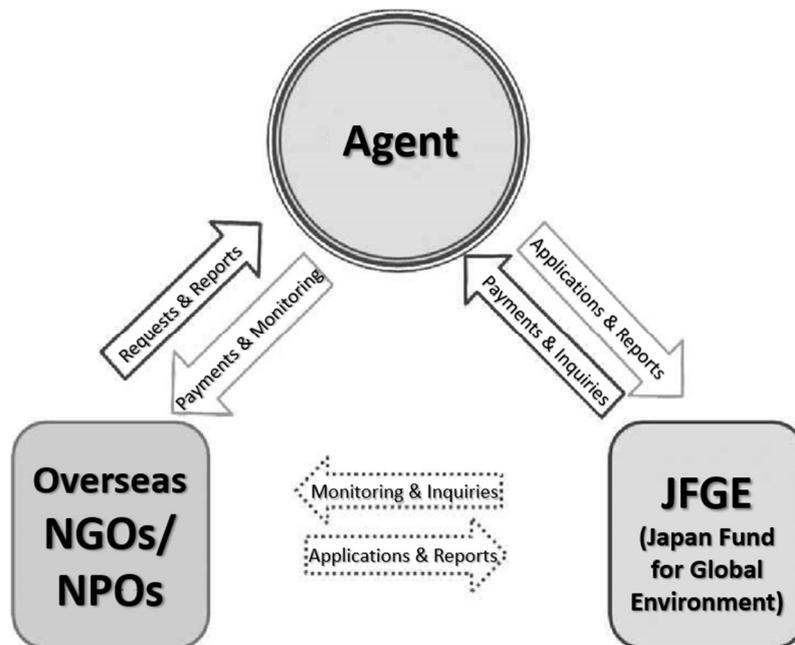
- 1) A Japanese national or an individual of other nationality who has obtained permanent resident status in Japan, in possession of a bank account in Japan with which they can make deposits in Japanese yen (living in Japan is not a prerequisite).
- 2) A corporation with its principal office in Japan.  
In addition, the following requirements must also be met for both 1) and 2):
- 3) i. Having a track record of involvement in the environmental conservation activities of the non-Japanese organization requesting the grant.  
ii. Being capable of communicating with non-Japanese organizations applying in local languages, etc.

#### B. Duties of the Agent

Once the proposal is approved, the Agent is required to serve as a liaison and coordinator between the recipient organization and JFGE, and provide guidance to the recipient organization, when necessary, as illustrated by the workflow chart for Category B projects, until the conclusion of grant activities. Specifically, they will be expected to fulfill the following duties:

- 1) Preparation and submission of various applications and reports in Japanese
- 2) Responding to inquiries from JFGE concerning required documents, and relaying these to the organization
- 3) Progress management and on-site guidance for grant activities
- 4) Travel as required to fulfill the duty mentioned in 3) (in principle, one person)
- 5) Remittance of grant money to the organization in the field
- 6) Participation in individual consultations, mid-term consultations (2nd year of grant) and activity sharing meetings (3rd year of grant)

<Workflow chart for Category B projects>



Communications and coordination (submissions, inquiries, revisions, etc.) related to various application and reporting documents will be handled by all three of the non-Japanese organization, the Agent, and JFGE, but the role of main contact point for the non-Japanese organization will be delegated to the Agent.

④ **Agent-related expenses**

Expenses related to the delegation of duties described in (2) above (items 1) through (4) below) must be accounted for separately from the grant activity expenses. (\*1)

- 1) Wages for labor related to on-site guidance and the preparation of various application and reporting documents in Japanese (\*2)
- 2) One-time travel expenses required to carry out on-site guidance and progress management
- 3) Travel expenses required for participation in JFGE-related events such as the activity sharing meeting (3rd year of grant)
- 4) Communication and postage fees related to correspondence with in-field personnel and JFGE (including remittance fees)

\*1 In addition to the request forms submitted by the organization, a budget breakdown of Agent-related expenses must also be submitted. The amount of the grant will be the total of the organization's activity expenses and Agent-related expenses.

\*2 An upper limit of 1,800 yen per hour shall be applied to wages, taking into account the level of expertise of the Agent. Part-time wages related to the work of Agents in Category B projects should be recorded separately from the expenses of the activities pertaining to the request, using the budget breakdown table for Agent-related expenses. The maximum annual cumulative amount of Agent part-time wages is 360,000 yen regardless of the requested grant amount. However, if the Agent participates in on-site activities as part-time staff, their wages can be included as part of the expenses of the activity pertaining to the request, in which case the maximum annual cumulative amount of part-time wages specified on p. 16 should be adhered to. The hourly wage rate for Agents will be abolished from FY2026 onward, and will be changed to a maximum of 40% of the flat amount of the request, but the maximum annual cumulative amount of 360,000 yen for the part-time wages of Agents will be kept.

## (16) Other

### ① **Substantial changes to the activities pertaining to the request are not allowed**

Since the document-based examination process for selecting grant activities is based around the Request Form, please prepare and submit this after careful consideration, to ensure that no major changes will be made to its contents after the approval of the grant.

A significant change in the content of grant activities or in the income and expenditure budget after the conditional approval has been awarded may result in non-payment of the grant (Article 9 and Article 16, Paragraph 1, Item 3 of the JFGE Grant Policies and Procedures).

### ② **JFGE guidance and response to fraud**

If deemed necessary in fulfilling the purpose of the grant, JFGE may request the submission of additional reports from the recipient organization, or have JFGE staff investigate the books and documents of the organization and give instructions on necessary actions to be taken. In the event that any irregularities or fraudulent processes should be disclosed, grant approval may be rescinded and orders issued to return any paid-out grant funds.

(Articles 16 through 20 of the JFGE Grant Policies and Procedures)

### ③ **Individual meeting (preliminary goal sharing) (for the 1st year of a grant)**

If the activities pertaining to the request are given conditional approval, an individual meeting will be conducted online from mid- to late April.

### ④ **Performance reports (every fiscal year)**

Grant recipients are required to submit a "Report on Achievements and Activities" within one month after the conclusion of the grant activities or by April 10 after the end of the fiscal year, and to prepare and submit a "Self-Assessment Sheet" concerning their own grant project.

### ⑤ **Mid-term consultation (for the 2nd year of a grant)**

If a grant activity is selected to continue for a second year, mid-term consultation with members of the JFGE Expert Committee on Evaluations will be conducted. Consultation will in principle be conducted online. (Excludes Strategic Projects and LOVE BLUE grants)

### ⑥ **Activity report (for the 3rd or later years of a grant, and for the final year of the grant)**

In principle, recipients are required to attend an activity sharing meeting in the final year of the grant activity.

### ⑦ **Field inspection (after the conclusion of the grant)**

In the year following the conclusion of grant activities, members of the JFGE Expert Committee on Evaluations conduct a field inspection of the grant activities (target organizations are selected by the Expert Committee on Evaluations). The results of the inspection are then reflected in the examination policies for the following two fiscal years and beyond. JFGE will cover travel expenses for the field inspection (the evaluation scheme is subject to change after FY2025 due to the establishment of new grant programs, etc.)

### ⑧ **Follow-up survey**

After the conclusion of the grant period, a follow-up survey (questionnaire) will be conducted concerning the development of activities, etc. (The evaluation scheme is subject to change after FY2025 due to the establishment of new grant programs, etc.)

### ⑨ **Handling of personal information**

JFGE will not use the personal information provided in the request forms for any purpose other than to contact applicants regarding the grants and related projects. We will not provide or disclose the information to any third party, except with the consent of the provider of said information or with justifiable reasons.

However, for organizations that are not listed in the "Environmental NGO/NPO Database" published on the JFGE website, the "Organization Name", "Representative Name", "Location of Principal Office (prefecture only)", "Date of Establishment", and "Website Address" entered on Form No. 5 of the request form will be disclosed as information about the organization.

## (17) How to Submit Request Forms

### ① Documents to be submitted

The documents that need to be submitted are as follows, however, please be aware that the required documents may differ depending on the type of activity and whether the applicant organization is new to JFGE grants or an organization with ongoing grants. For details, please refer to the "Request Form Submission Manual" that will be made available on the JFGE website in mid-November.

- 1) JFGE Grant Request Forms
- 2) The articles of incorporation or by-laws of the organization
- 3) List of board members and other constituent members of the organization
- 4) Budget statement for FY2024
- 5) Financial statement for FY2023
- 6) Financial statement for FY2022
- 7) Agent power of attorney document (only for Category B projects)
- 8) Agent qualification documents (only for Category B projects)
- 9) Materials and maps explaining organizational activities
- 10) Application Form for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)  
(Only for organizations applying for the "Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)" program)
- 11) Application Form for Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)  
(Only for organizations applying for the "Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)" program)

\*1 The information to be included in the JFGE grant request form shall be the same regardless of the grant program applied for. However, the number of years to be entered under activity goals, activity budget, and implementation schedule will vary depending on the duration of the specific program.

\*2 The Power of Attorney document, Application Form for Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration), and Application Form for Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) can be downloaded from the JFGE website or the "JFGE Grant Application System".

### ② Input/submission method

Requests should be submitted through the "JFGE Grant Application System".

Applicants should visit the below-mentioned website to register for a "My Page", after which they should enter the necessary information and upload the necessary attached documents after Monday, November 11. If you have difficulty submitting your request through the grant application system, please request assistance via the contact information listed on the back cover. Please note that the following organizations do not need to register for a new My Page, but may instead log in to the JFGE grant application system using the login ID and password they have already obtained.

	Login ID, password to be used
Organizations receiving grants from FY2023 or FY2024	Login ID and password used in the grant application processes (when submitting grant application forms and grant payment requests, etc.) in FY2023 or FY2024.
Organizations that have prepared and submitted grant requests for FY2023 or FY2024	Login ID and password obtained at the time of grant request submission in FY2023 or FY2024.
Organizations that received grants between FY2014 to FY2022 (if none of the above apply)	Login ID and password sent to the email address registered on the occasion of the most recent year of grant approval, or from an email sent to the organization's shared address.

If you do not know the email address to which your login information was sent, please send an email to [kikin\\_youbou@erca.go.jp](mailto:kikin_youbou@erca.go.jp) with the following information:

- Name of your organization (\*In case this has been changed, the old name should also be listed.)
- Year in which the grant was received
- Representative email address currently used by the organization
- 13-digit corporate number (only for organizations with corporate status)

#### Application Period

From 12:00 p.m. November 11, 2024 (Mon) to 1:00 p.m. December 2, 2024 (Mon)

JFGE Grant Application System: <https://jfge.erca.go.jp>

#### <Precautions when submitting your application>

- In principle, we do not accept grant requests by post, in person, or by e-mail.
- Please strictly adhere to the above-mentioned application period. Also, please note that network congestion may occur towards the end of the registration period, and that it may take some time to complete the submission process. When submitting documents, please be sure to allow leeway as such.
- Please follow the manual and system precautions for inputting information and uploading files. If you have any questions about how to use the application system, please contact us at: [jfge-system@erca.go.jp](mailto:jfge-system@erca.go.jp)

### 3. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (Strategic Projects)

**NOTE: Strategic projects target Category C projects only.**

#### (1) Purpose of Strategic Project Programs

In response to social issues such as increasingly complex and prolonged environmental issues, the need to find simultaneous solutions to all kinds of problems, and the need to establish frameworks for social and regional participation, JFGE has established grant programs for two types of strategic projects ("Policy Issue Collaboration" and "Community Collaboration") aimed at solving mid- to long-term issues through collaboration among multiple actors. We are looking for organizations that aim to develop activities in collaboration with multiple other actors, achieve results through strategic initiatives, create synergies across fields, and create impact effects that lead to social change and regional contributions.

#### (2) Outline of Strategic Projects

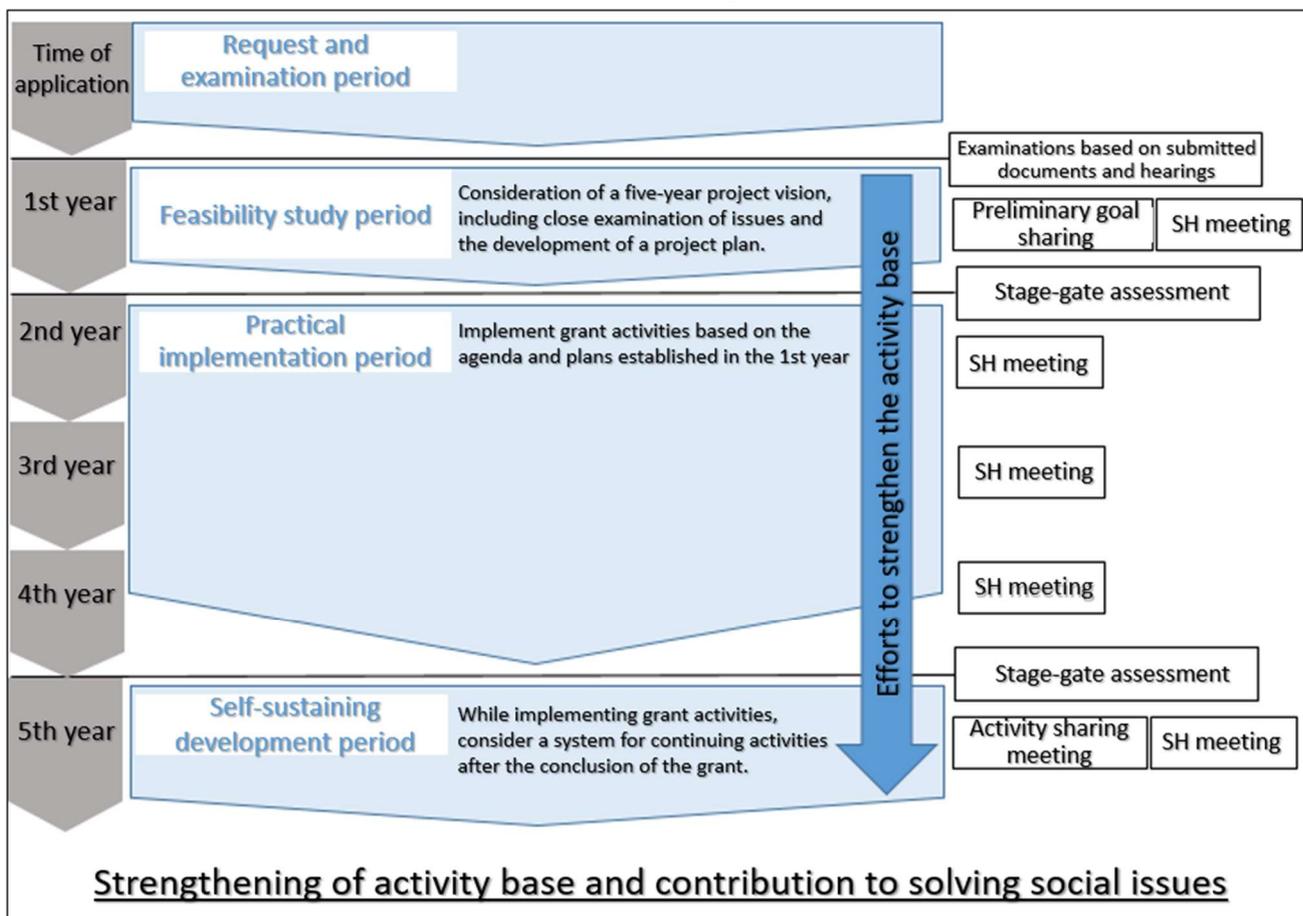
The following is an outline of the Strategic Project programs.

	Policy Issue Collaboration (representative organizations only)	Community Collaboration
Grant period	Up to 5 years (Projects are executed in a stage-gate system according to stages such as feasibility study (year 1), practical implementation (years 2-4), and continuation (year 5) (to prepare for self-sustaining development)).	
Common requirements	Organizations with at least three years of experience in activities in the field related to the grant activities.	
Project category	Category C projects	
Range of grant amounts	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen
(Range of grant amounts available for 1st year)	(2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen)	(2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen)
Setting of theme	Set by Expert Committee on Grants based on the policy issues of the Ministry of the Environment	Proposed by applicant organization, as per Regular Grants
Potential collaborators	Ministry of the Environment, Environmental NPOs, etc.	Corporations, government, community organizations, etc.
Application frequency	Only in FY2025 (Status of new applications for FY2026 onwards as yet undetermined)	Scheduled to take applications every fiscal year
Number of projects to be selected	About 2 out of 4 themes (Selection planned for one organization per theme)	About 3 projects (Selection planned for one organization per project)
Examinations	Document (primary examination), hearing (second examination), hearing (upon stage completion)	
Other	Stakeholder meetings with outside experts to be held once a year.	

\*The outline for the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) program concerns only the representative organizations of the project. Specific information on the application process concerning implementing organizations will be provided in the 2026 Guide to JFGE Grant Applications.

The implementation schedule for the Strategic Project programs is shown on the next page. Activities are generally to be carried out for 5 years according to a stage-gate process (e.g. feasibility study period → practical implementation period → self-sustaining development period). Please keep in mind that the implementation schedule on the next page is only an example, as the manner in which stage-gates are set and the timing of the stage-gate assessments will be decided upon consultation with the recipient organization after notification of conditional approval. Please note that there will be no mid-term consultation in the second year of grant activities, as Strategic Projects will instead conduct Stakeholder (SH) meetings.

<Strategic Project implementation schedule (conceptual image)>



<Activities by stage>

\*The year in which the stages are set is subject to change depending on the grant activities.

Grant year	Activities	Grant amount
1st year (Feasibility study period)	Scrutinizing issues in grant activities, developing a 5-year project plan, and formulating strategies for resolving issues through backcasting.	2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen
2nd to 4th year (practical implementation period)	Implementing grant activities based on the agenda and plans established in the first year.	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen
Fifth year (self-sustaining development period)	While continuing the grant project, consider a system for continuing activities after the conclusion of the grant period.	

### (3) Stakeholder (SH) Meetings

Stakeholder (SH) meetings are held midway through the implementation of the grant activities to confirm progress as well as discuss how to proceed with the grant project in the next fiscal year and beyond (and, in the final fiscal year, to properly summarize the results of the grant activities). The holding of the meeting (secretariat work related to the holding of the meeting) is to be conducted under the initiative of the recipient organization of the grant, in coordination with a JFGE representative. The meetings are outlined as follows.

Item	Details	
Implementation period	In principle, the meetings should be held once a year around the second half of the fiscal year.	
Implementation method	The meetings should be held in person, via a web conference system, or in a hybrid format (in person + web conference).	
Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checking of the progress of activities up to the current fiscal year (the appropriateness of plans, achievement of goals, etc.)</li> <li>• Consideration of how to proceed with future grant activities (reflecting results in environmental policy and community development, achieving self-sustaining development after grant conclusion, etc.)</li> <li>• Consideration of measures to deal with delays in grant activities, if any.</li> </ul>	
Participants	<b>Policy Issue Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside expert/s on the grant activities to be selected by the recipient organization (at least one expert)</li> <li>• Parties to the grant activities (representative and implementing organizations)</li> <li>• Secretariat (JFGE representative)</li> <li>• Observers (Ministry of the Environment officials)</li> </ul>	<b>Community Collaboration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside expert/s on the grant activities to be selected by the recipient organization (at least one expert)</li> <li>• Parties to the grant activities (grant recipient organization and members of cooperative projects)</li> <li>• Secretariat (JFGE representative)</li> </ul>
Cost burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please include the necessary expenses (travel expenses, honorariums, etc. for outside experts, the grant recipient organization, collaborators, etc.) in the "Evaluations, etc." section of Request Form No. 3-2 (Budget Breakdown by Activity).</li> <li>• Travel expenses and honorariums for JFGE staff and Ministry of the Environment officials are not required.</li> </ul>	

\*In addition to the above participants, outside experts selected by JFGE may also attend.

### (4) Examinations

As part of the selection process for new Strategic Projects, a document-based examination (primary examination, common to all programs) and a hearing-based examination (second examination) will be conducted. In the hearing-based examination, JFGE judges will ask questions to organizations that have passed the document-based examination, focusing on the establishment of issues, project plans, and implementation systems within the organizations for solving social issues and achieving community development, etc.

A hearing-based examination will also be conducted after selection, upon the completion of each stage. Regarding the hearing-based examination carried out upon the completion of a stage, we will contact you again after the conditional approval to determine which phase will be the subject of the examination.

<Outline of examinations for new applicants>

① Document-based examination (primary examination for new requests)

As with all grant programs, this examination will be conducted based on the submitted request forms.

② Hearing-based examination (second examination for new requests)

Organizations that have passed the document-based evaluation will be subject to a hearing-based examination. In this examination, evaluation will be conducted based on the content of the submitted request forms, etc., focusing on the establishment of issues, project plans, and the implementation system of the organization.

○ Implementation period: Around January-February 2025

○ Method: Online meeting (30 minutes to 1 hour)

○ Eligible organizations: Organizations that have passed the document-based examination

○ Notes: The board members of the organization and the project leaders tasked with carrying out the grant project must attend the meeting. Organizations that pass the document-based examination will be contacted by JFGE again at the e-mail address provided on the request form regarding the hearing-based examination. Please be advised that regardless of whether or not you are contacted regarding a hearing-based examination, notification of acceptance or rejection is scheduled for the end of March for all requesting organizations, including those requesting regular grants.

③ Stage-gate assessment (upon the completion of a stage, approx. two times)

Two stage-gate assessments will be conducted for organizations during the grant period in order to confirm the prospects for future development of the grant activities through the feasibility study phase (first stage-gate assessment) and the achievement of goals through the practical implementation phase and progress toward self-sustaining development (second stage-gate assessment). Assessments will be conducted based on requests submitted by organizations seeking continued grant funding. Please note that regardless of whether or not a stage-gate assessment is conducted, the submission of a written request for the following year's grant is mandatory each fiscal year.

○ Implementation period: Around January to February of the year when the stage-gate assessment is conducted.

○ Method: Face-to-face or online meeting

○ Eligible organizations: Organizations upon the completion of a stage

○ Notes: The year in which the stage-gate assessment is conducted will be set according to the grant activity, but it is planned to be conducted at the transition from the feasibility study stage to the practical implementation stage, and from the practical implementation stage to the self-sustaining development stage. In principle, other points to be considered are the same as those at the time of the hearing-based examination.

## (5) Application Details for the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) Program

### ① Purpose of the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) program

In the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) program, themes are set in advance based on policy issues, and environmental NPOs with knowledge of the relevant issues aim to resolve the issues by creating flexible implementation schemes tailored to the theme.

### ② Themes for Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration) open for application in FY2025

Based on the policy needs of the Ministry of the Environment, we will take applications from representative organizations on the following four themes in FY2025: The number of themes and organizations to be selected will be approximately 2 themes and 2 organizations. The themes to be selected will be judged comprehensively based on the request documents submitted by applicant organizations. Applications from implementing organizations that will collaborate with a representative organization on the activities will be accepted in FY2026.

#### 1) Building decarbonized communities

Japan's Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures calls for a 46% greenhouse gas emission reduction from FY2013 levels by FY2030, and has selected more than 100 regions across Japan as "decarbonization leading areas" that aim to achieve decarbonization by 2030. Regional decarbonization is a regional growth strategy for an era where decarbonization is viewed as an opportunity for growth. It can be realized by having local governments, local businesses, citizens, and other local stakeholders play leading roles in maximizing the use of local resources for renewable energy using existing technologies, circulating the economy, while at the same time working to solve local issues relating to such areas as disaster prevention and quality of life improvement, thus contributing to regional revitalization.

An example of the types of activities being called for are those aimed at building nationwide frameworks for the promotion of regional decarbonization. This includes the promotion of regional power producers and suppliers that are expected to play a role in furthering regional economic circulation by supplying electricity to the region and procuring and developing local renewable energy sources, and are expected to be supported by national networking and other types of support appropriate for individual actors.

#### 2) Realization of the nature positive goal at a regional level

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Japan 2023-2030 calls for the protection and utilization of biodiversity and natural capital, which are the foundation of global sustainability and the basis of human security, with the aim of achieving the "nature positive goal" (nature revitalization) by 2030.

Applications are welcomed that contribute to the promotion of the nature positive initiative on the regional level. Examples include activities aimed at building nationwide promotional frameworks based on themes that contribute to the promotion of nature positivity in accordance with the natural characteristics of each region, such as through the expansion of protected areas by applying the perspective of rarity and regional characteristics to the identification of areas important for conservation with regard to "Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites" (areas where biodiversity is being conserved through the efforts of the private sector, etc.), the establishment of monitoring methods for Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites, and creation of conservation mechanisms with a system for securing funds necessary for conservation, etc.

### 3) Realization of circular economy at a regional level

One of the main pillars of Japan's "The 5th Fundamental Plan for Establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society", which positions the transition to a circular economy as a national strategy, is to create a resource circulation model that takes advantage of regional characteristics. To achieve this, it is essential to promote the establishment of resource recycling partnerships based on a comprehensive view of the entire region, connecting people and organizations in large numbers, and to include efforts to coordinate interests, for consensus building, information dissemination, the involvement of citizens and businesses, and the establishment of project implementation systems including fundraising. Furthermore, human resources will need to be trained to act as key persons coordinating between the many actors involved, such as waste generators, collectors, transporters, recyclers, manufacturers using recycled materials, consumers, and local governments, based on the characteristics of each region, including the sizes of municipalities, the amount and type of waste generated there, the type and scale of recycling facilities and local industries, and the awareness of local residents. Consequently, applications are welcomed that include activities aimed at building nationwide promotional frameworks based on themes pertaining to individual initiatives that contribute to the promotion of a circular economy according to the characteristics of each region's resources. This could involve, for example, human resource development for the creation of recycling-oriented business models that find uses for general waste such as food waste, left-over branches from pruning, and diapers, or industrial waste such as livestock manure, plastics, and metals, coupled with hands-on support for the creation of resource-recycling partnerships in each region, expected to be supported by national networking and other types of support programs.

### 4) Realization of a regional circular and ecological sphere

The Sixth Basic Environment Plan calls for the creation of "regional circular and ecological spheres" in each region as a place to practice and implement new growth toward the realization of "wellbeing/high quality of life" and "the future we want", utilizing regional resources to contribute to regional economic revitalization and solutions to regional issues.

Applications are welcomed that contribute to the realization of regional circular and ecological spheres. These may, for example, include activities such as those aimed at building nationwide promotional frameworks based on themes that contribute to strengthening intermediary support functions for autonomous management of regional platforms, creating businesses that advance the simultaneous resolution of environmental, social, and economic issues on the regional level, as well as creating a system to secure funds needed to keep such businesses running, and building regional platforms to enable a "fair transition" based on the measures required of each region as they transition to a decarbonized society, such as the redesign of local industry and re-skilling of workers.

### ③ **Requirements for the representative organization in Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration)**

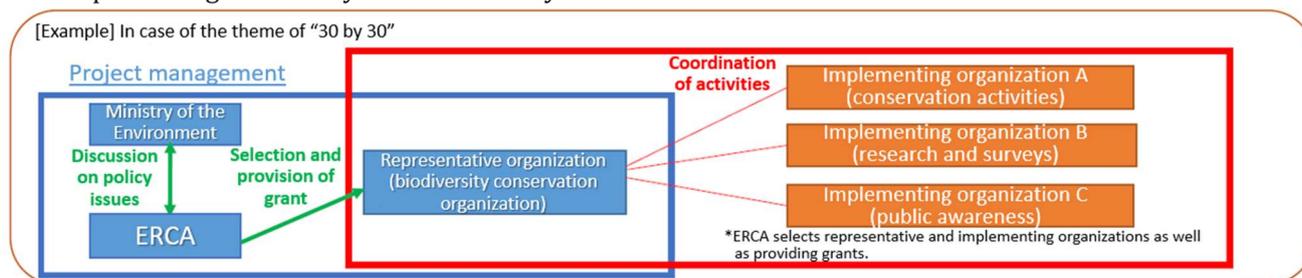
In Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration), the applicant organization will work on grant activities by forming consortiums with other environmental NPOs that will act as implementing organizations from FY2026 and beyond. Therefore, in addition to the requirements stipulated in "(3) Requirements for Applicant Organizations" and "(4) Requirements for Activities Pertaining to the Applications" in "2. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (common items for all programs)", the applicant must also be capable of managing the activities of the implementing organizations.

### ④ **Outline of grant projects implemented by consortium of representative organizations and implementing organizations**

<Outline for applications by representative organizations and implementing organizations>

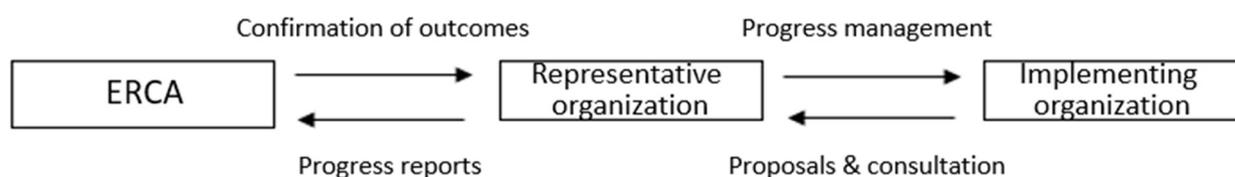
	Representative organization	Implementing organization
Application period (Grant period)	Accepted in FY2025 (for grants up to 5 years)	Accepted in FY2026 (for grants up to 4 years)
Eligible organizations	Organizations capable of setting goals, monitoring the progress of implementing organizations, and striving towards the materialization of results pertaining to the policy themes set by the Ministry of the Environment and ERCA, in cooperation with implementing organizations that have expertise in each region or field.	Organizations capable of collaboration with representative organizations based on their understanding of the issues and themes set forth, and by utilizing their own expertise in the region or field.
Grant amount	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 yen (2,000,000 - 8,000,000 yen in the first year)	To be announced in the 2026 Guide to JFGE Grant Applications
Number of organizations to be selected	About 2 organizations (About 1 organization per issue)	To be announced in the 2026 Guide to JFGE Grant Applications
Maximum grant amount for wages	Within 50% of the range of grant amounts available	To be announced in the 2026 Guide to JFGE Grant Applications

<Conceptual image of activity collaboration by a consortium>



<Roles of each actor in a Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)>

Actor	Role
Representative organization	To carry out project management of the projects carried out by the implementing organization, in addition to developing the activities of its own organization. The grant period is up to five years (scheduled to begin in FY2025).
Implementing organization	To implement the activities applied for on the request form in cooperation with the representative organization and other implementing organizations. The grant period is up to four years (scheduled to begin in FY2026). Implementing organizations may consult with the representative organization in advance concerning what JFGE will be taking applications for in FY2026.



<Schedule of Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration)>

Fiscal year	Details
FY2024	Taking of applications from, examination, and conditional approval of representative organizations
FY2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting of goals, formulation of activity plans, setting of requirements for applicant organizations, etc. (first half of fiscal year)</li> <li>Taking of applications from, examination, and conditional approval of implementing organizations (second half of fiscal year)</li> </ul>
FY2026 onward	Start of activities in the form of a consortium of the representative organization and implementing organizations

⑤ Documents to be submitted for Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration)

As described in "(17) How to Submit Request Forms", in addition to the documents common for all programs, submission of the "Application Form (Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration))" is required when applying for the Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) grant. Please refer to the JFGE website or the "JFGE Grant Application System" for the application forms.

⑥ Flow of proceedings after the notification of conditional approval of a Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration)

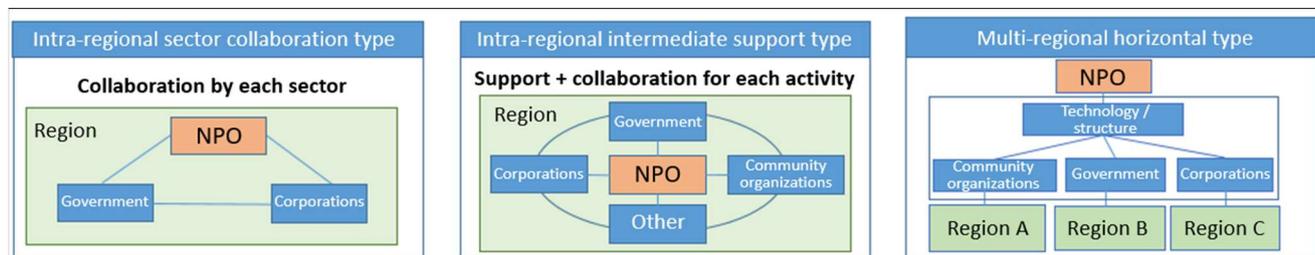
The first year of grant activities will be the feasibility study stage, during which the conditionally approved organizations will establish issues to be addressed in grant activities and create a five-year project plan. The organizations will work with JFGE staff to develop a plan for resolving issues by backcasting.

## (6) Application Details for the Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) Program

### ① Purpose of the Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) program

The Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) program aims to promote the resolution of social issues by creating local actors and mechanisms for sustainable community development through efforts to address complex regional issues, including environmental problems, with NPOs playing a central role.

<Patterns of collaboration in resolving local issues (examples)>



\*Here, "NPO" refers to a recipient organization of a JFGE grant.

### ② Requirements for Strategic Projects (Community Collaboration)

In Strategic Projects (Community Collaboration), in addition to the requirements stipulated in "(3) Requirements for Applicant Organizations" and "(4) Requirements for Activities Pertaining to the Applications" in "2. Application Guidelines for JFGE Grant Requests (common items for all programs)," a collaborative system must have been established (or be expected to be established) within the target region for the implementation of the grant activities. Members of the collaborative system other than NPOs (corporations, governments, etc.) are not allowed to act as grant applicants. After conditional approval, the grant applicant NPO will handle the grant application, grant payment requests, and various evaluations.

### ③ Documents to be submitted for Strategic Projects (Community Collaboration)

As described in "(17) How to Submit Request Forms", in addition to the documents common for all programs, submission of the "Application Form (Strategic Project (Community Collaboration))" is required when applying for the Strategic Project (Community Collaboration) grant. Please refer to the JFGE website or the "JFGE Grant Application System" for the application forms.

### ④ Flow of proceedings after the notification of conditional approval of a Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)

The first year of grant activities will be the feasibility study stage, during which the conditionally approved organizations will establish issues to be addressed in grant activities, create a five-year project plan, and work with JFGE staff to develop a plan to resolve the issues through backcasting.

## 4. Examination Policy

Expert Committee on Grants

Grant requests will be examined by the JFGE Management Council and the Expert Committee on Grants before a decision is made.

In examining requests for JFGE grants for FY2025, the following examination policy will act as a basis in selecting projects for approval, so please read the policy carefully and reference it when preparing your "Grant Request Form".

### 1. Perspectives employed in examinations

Submitted requests will be examined based on the following common matters and perspectives for each grant program. Please note that the program may be reconsidered and conditionally approved upon examination by the Expert Committee on Grants, based on the content of the activities.

#### Common matters

#### ① Application requirements

A. Requirements for Organizations:

The activities must be those indicated in (3) Requirements for Applicant Organizations on p.6 of the Guide to JFGE Grant Applications.

B. Requirements for Activities:

The activities must be those indicated (4) Requirements for Activities Pertaining to the Applications on p.7 of the Guide to JFGE Grant Applications.

#### ② Capability of carrying out activities

Examination items	Examination details	Examples of cases where rejection is likely
Operational capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the organization have the sufficient accounting and administrative capabilities to carry out its activities?</li> </ul> <p>Accounting capability: Has the organization established an accounting management system?</p> <p>Administrative capability: Does the organization have the skills necessary for general document preparation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the case of ongoing activities for which previous requests have been made, have administrative procedures for previous years been properly implemented?</li> <li>• In the case of overseas activities, does the applicant have a track record of activities in the target region? Also, has the local political situation been taken into consideration?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the amount requested is excessive compared to the organization's track record of past activities, leading to concerns about implementation.</li> </ul>
Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are personnel with the expertise necessary for the implementation of activities present in the organizational framework?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the number of personnel within the activity implementation framework with experience relevant to the proposed activities is extremely small.</li> </ul>
Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the division of roles between the organization and stakeholders clear, and is the organization itself responsible for decision-making from planning to implementation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When activities are not directly conducted by the organization, from planning to on-site work.</li> <li>• When activities are commissioned by a government agency, corporation, or other entity.</li> <li>• In the case of overseas activities, when the implementation of activities is fully dependent on</li> </ul>

		(outsourced to) a local collaborator (counterpart).
Funding plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can it be expected that the applicant will be able to secure sufficient funds using its own resources and other allocated expenses (approximately 20% to be allocated from donations, participation fees, etc.) proportionate to the scale and progress plans for the activities pertaining to the request?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the proportion of outsourced activities is large.</li> <li>When the proportion of own funds is significantly low.</li> </ul>
Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the most recent status updates on activity implementation, business reports, financial statements, etc. disclosed on the organization's website or through other means?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When an organization's website has not been updated for a long period of time.</li> </ul>

### ③ Activities

Examination items	Examination details	Factors in scoring	Examples of cases where rejection is likely
Necessity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the current situation, needs, and problems of the target region determined based on objective data, and is the necessity for and implementation method of the activity clear?</li> <li>In the case of overseas activities (in developing regions), will residents or private organizations participate in the activities? Also, does the organization have a good understanding of socio-economic conditions and national identity in the area where activities will take place?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The activities address issues of a high urgency.</li> <li>An outline of the current status is provided, together with supporting data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When several similar activities exist that have preceded the grant recipient's activities in Japan or overseas, or when the request pertains to activities for which grants have already been received in the past.</li> <li>When organizations are taking turns in conducting a regular activity.</li> <li>When activities are focused on the purchase of goods and materials, or construction of buildings and facilities.</li> </ul>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are prepared plans consistent with the logic leading to the resolution of the issue, and are the plans reasonable and concrete? Are activity plans clear and reasonable as to what changes will ultimately occur as a result of the activities, to whom and for what purpose, and how the results will be measured?</li> <li>In the case of ongoing activities for which previous requests have been made, do plans include a policy on how to respond based on the results of the overall goal and outcomes for activities in previous years and the contents of mid-term consultations?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans should set as many indicators as possible, including overall goals, outcomes, etc., and to plan for reviews, objective evaluations, scientific verification, and monitoring of activities both before and after implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the applicant does not present a concrete plan to achieve its goals, descriptions of activities do not inspire faith in their effectiveness, or when there are concerns about the readiness of the project.</li> <li>When there is no prospect of obtaining the cooperation of those relevant parties necessary for the implementation of the project.</li> <li>When the Agent of a Category B project is not involved in the target project.</li> <li>When, in the case of ongoing activities for which previous requests have been made, the response to advice given by members of the Expert Committee on Evaluations in the mid-term consultation, and the status of improvements to issues faced in previous years, are not sufficiently described.</li> </ul>
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are the content and timing of activities appropriate and valid?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The budget plan is designed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the cost estimate is expected to be excessive in</li> </ul>

		to be economical.	relation to the project pertaining to the request.
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a clear vision for project activities to continue or to develop further after the conclusion of the grant?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the case of Strategic Projects, there is an intention to strengthen the activity base based on an appropriate understanding of the issues being faced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When there is no vision for activities beyond the grant period, and activities are considered likely to only be carried out during the grant period.</li> </ul>
Social impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the project have the potential to make a significant contribution to solving environmental or social issues, and is there a clear means of measuring results?</li> <li>• Are there mechanisms in place to disseminate the results of surveys and research?</li> <li>• With regard to policy proposal activities, have the recipients and methods of disseminating said proposals been clarified in advance so that the results can be verified?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The activities are such that will have a positive impact on the environment and society in order to achieve the SDGs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the purpose of the project is simply to maintain the activities of the organization and does not involve a vision for solving environmental or social issues.</li> <li>• When the method for measuring results in solving environmental or social issues is unclear, and the impact on society after the conclusion of the grant will be difficult to measure.</li> </ul>
Public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the activities pertaining to the request involve a wide range of citizens, as opposed to just a limited group of experts?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project includes stakeholders from many different generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When there is no mechanism for citizens to be proactively involved, such as when activities are confined to research conducted by a specific group of experts.</li> </ul>

Other examples of cases when rejection is likely include:

- When independence, sustainability, and development cannot be expected in terms of the activities or the organization itself, as evidenced by e.g. the same organization, without proper reason, repeatedly requesting grants for similar activities while changing only the requested grant program.
- When activities for recovery of grant funds are expected, such as through loaning, financing, and investments.
- When the need for support provided by JFGE is low. (For example, when the balance of income and expenditure carried forward of an organization exceeds 30 million yen, or 10 times the amount of the grant request, or when the total income and expenditure for each fiscal year exceeds 1 billion yen and there is a surplus of funds, such as when funding is provided to a head office located in another country.) (excluding Strategic Projects)

**Perspectives employed in examinations for each program**

<New grant programs>

Program name	Examination details	Factors in scoring	Examples leading to rejection
Regular Grant (Basic)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the new environmental conservation activities initiated by the organization devised with originality and ingenuity?</li> <li>• Does the content of activities present a vision that leads from preparation and foundation-building to full-scale implementation of the project?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project activities are trying to tackle new issues, fields, and methodologies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the amount requested is excessive compared to the organization's track record of past activities, leading to concerns about implementation.</li> <li>• When an organization that has received a Regular Grant (Basic) in the past repeatedly makes requests pertaining to similar activities without any particular reason.</li> </ul>
Regular Grant (Development)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the vision and plans for the project as an initiative aimed at the sustainable operation of activities clear?</li> <li>• Is the project expected to both develop activities and address social issues?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organization works in collaboration with stakeholders such as local residents, government, corporations, and experts with specialized knowledge related to the activity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the organization does not have clear prospects for continued development after the conclusion of the grant.</li> <li>• When the organization is not positioned to develop its activities or work toward solving social issues, and its activities are limited to those in which it has been engaged in the past.</li> </ul>
Strategic Project (Policy Issue Collaboration) *Representative organizations only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the organization have knowledge related to the policy theme that has been set?</li> <li>• Does the organization appear capable of managing not only their own activities but also those of the implementing organizations?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organization incorporates perspectives specific to environmental NPOs in response to the issues set forth in the project.</li> <li>• The organization has a good track record of working with governments and environmental NPOs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the track record of the organization or the persons in charge does not indicate a sufficient knowledge of the established policy theme.</li> <li>• When the implementation method for resolving the issue or the method for measurement of the results is unclear.</li> </ul>
Strategic Project (Community Collaboration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are plans designed to address issues that need to be resolved through collaboration among multiple actors, based on an assessment of the characteristics and issues of the region?</li> <li>• Has the organization established (or is expected to establish) a collaborative system in which local stakeholders can engage proactively?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roles of each stakeholder are clearly defined in the collaborative system, which covers a diverse range of sectors and disciplines.</li> <li>• The project involves pioneering initiatives or unique methods that could serve as a model for other projects in the future.</li> <li>• The local environment, economy, and society will benefit from the implementation of the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the objective of the project is simply building of a platform in itself, and no setting of specific issues nor any implementation plans can be identified.</li> <li>• When membership of the collaborative system is biased toward a certain sector (only local governments, only corporations, etc.).</li> <li>• When a project cannot be recognized an NPO-centered project for reasons such as the outsourcing of activities to a local government or other member of the collaborative system.</li> </ul>
LOVE BLUE Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the purpose of the activities environmental conservation, including cleanup, of waterfront areas?</li> </ul>	/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When project activities do not include cleanup activities</li> </ul>

\*1 Since applications from the "implementing organizations" of Strategic Projects (Policy Issue Collaboration) will be taken in FY2026, only the examination policy pertaining to representative organizations is included for FY2025 grant applications.

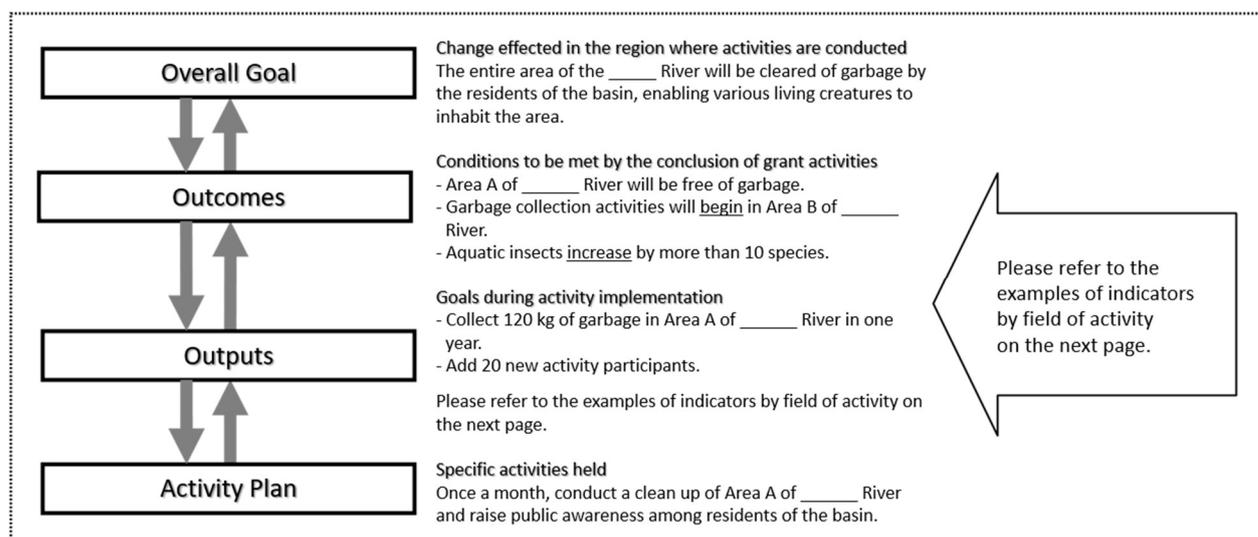
\*2 For Strategic Projects, organizations that have passed the document-based examination will be subject to a hearing-based examination. In the hearing-based examination, JFGE judges will ask questions based on the aforementioned common matters and examination policies for each program, focusing on the establishment of issues to be tackled and project plans related to solving social issues and community development, as well as the organization's implementation system, etc.

<Ongoing grant programs>

	Examination details	Examples leading to rejection
Continuous-Project Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a clear vision and plan for the sustainable continuation of activities that were started with the aim of taking root in the community?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the amount requested is excessive compared to the organization's track record of past activities, leading to concerns about implementation.</li> <li>• When an organization does not have a clear vision for the continued development of environmental conservation activities after the conclusion of the grant.</li> </ul>
General Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the results of activities have a social impact, and are they expected to lead to the resolution of important environmental issues?</li> <li>• Are new challenges present in the content and methods of activities, and is the organization expected to develop and upgrade its activities?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the organization is not positioned to develop, and the activities of the organization remain limited to those in which it has engaged in the past.</li> <li>• When the organization does not have clear prospects for continued development after the conclusion of the grant.</li> </ul>
Front-Runner Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are the results of activities expected to create new and advanced values and institutions for civil society?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When activities lack new mechanisms or aspects that could be serve as a model.</li> <li>• When a project is considered as having a strong element of academic research, or to be limited to the development, improvement, or demonstration of a technology, while the element of civic engagement is insubstantial.</li> </ul>
Platform Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there a platform function or framework in place for collecting opinions and for cooperation and collaboration based on agreements with other NGOs/NPOs and other relevant parties?</li> <li>• Will the targeted resolution of environmental issues have a significant impact on the progress of environmental conservation and the strengthening of civil society, both domestically and internationally?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the content of a grant request is limited to meetings and events, etc., and the effect of implementation after the conclusion of said meeting or event is unclear.</li> <li>• When cooperation and collaboration is limited to information exchange and networking, and any initiatives toward resolving issues are unclear.</li> </ul>
Special Grant (Regional Circular and Ecological Spheres Grant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the organization have a clear vision for collaboration with local residents in the area where activities will take place, and for initiatives to build partnerships with other actors?</li> <li>• Does the content of activities present a vision that leads from preparation and foundation-building to full-scale implementation of the project?</li> <li>• Is the project expected to build collaborative partnerships with a view to a regional vision and project development after the conclusion of the grant?</li> </ul>	
LOVE BLUE Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the purpose of the activities environmental conservation, including clean-up, of waterfront areas?</li> </ul>	When project activities do not include clean-up activities

## 5. Key Points for the Preparation of Request Forms

Grant decisions will be based on the information provided in the "JFGE Grant Request Forms". Therefore, the level of preciseness with which the specific plan to achieve the purpose of the activity (activity content, implementation method, schedule, budget, etc.) is described is key.



### 1. Is the project design solid?

"What is the purpose of the activities?," "What environmental changes will the activities bring about?"; the "JFGE Grant Request Forms" comprise multiple pages and yet we see many cases where answers to these questions are not provided.

Make sure to clearly indicate the relationship between goals, outcomes (performance goals), and outputs (activity implementation goals) in activities. It is important to clearly state the numbers involved.

### 2. Is the project consistent with the contents of the Guide to JFGE Grant Applications?

Some applications may not be considered due to issues with the descriptions therein, such as applications for activities that do not appear to strive for environmental conservation, activities that exceed the scope of the grant amounts, or activities that clearly exceed the unit cost criteria for expenses covered by the grants. Make sure to pay close attention to these fundamental aspects of your application.

### 3. Are plans appropriate and reasonable?

We sometimes receive applications where, upon examination of the submitted documents, it becomes clear that it would be impossible to implement the project as planned. The preparation of reasonable plans that can be reliably implemented is key. Please plan your project activities accordingly after careful consideration.

### 4. Has the request form been checked by someone other than the person who wrote it?

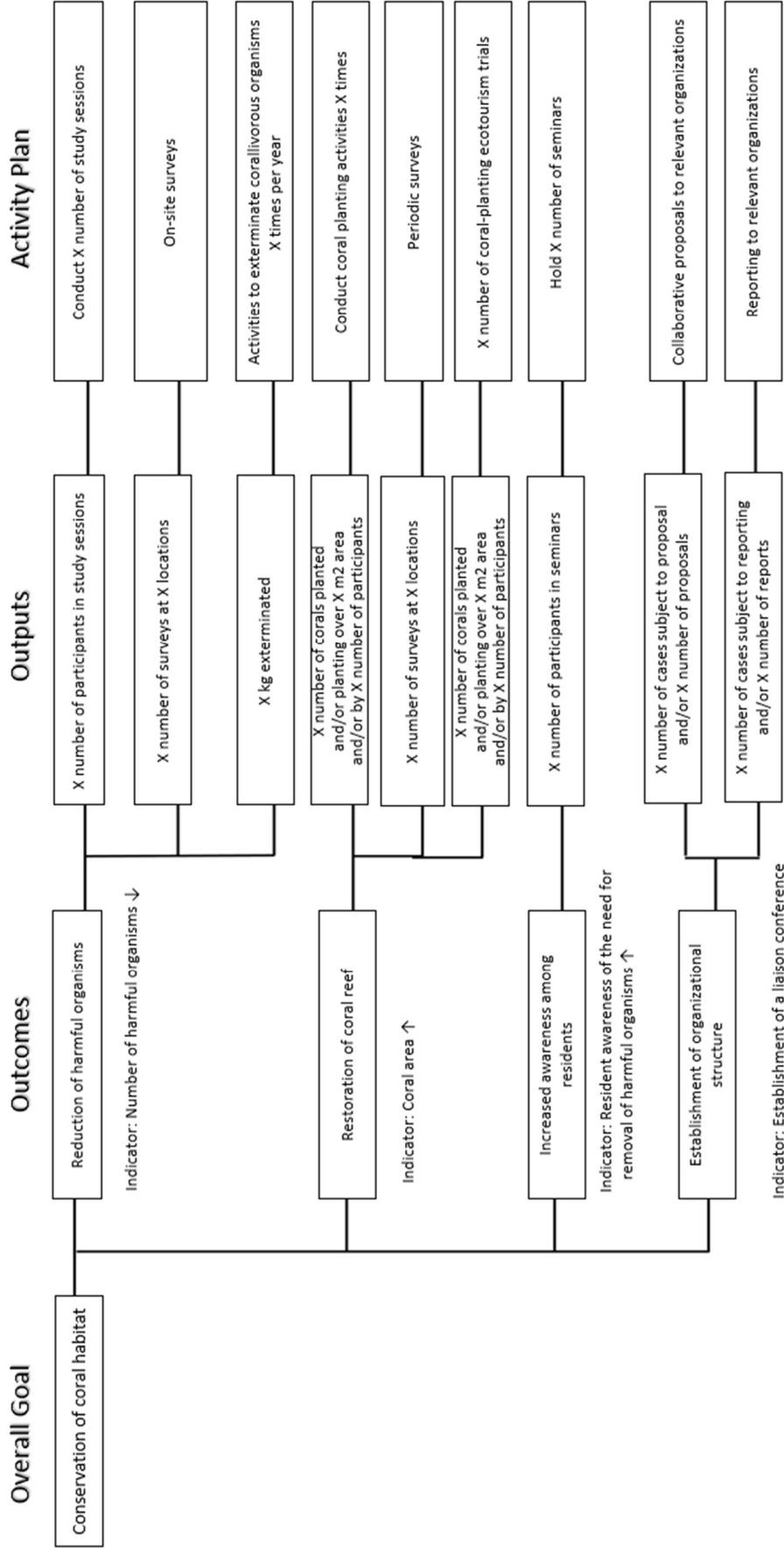
Is the information in the request form sufficiently clear to others, or is it written based on the assumptions of the writer? In addition to having the form double-checked by the person who wrote it, it can be beneficial to have it checked by someone else inside or outside the organization. This enables you to see how a third party interprets the written request, and thus discover any assumptions that are clear only to the person who wrote it. Whilst this is a time-consuming process, we believe it will result in a more precise request form.

## Examples of Indicators by Field of Activity

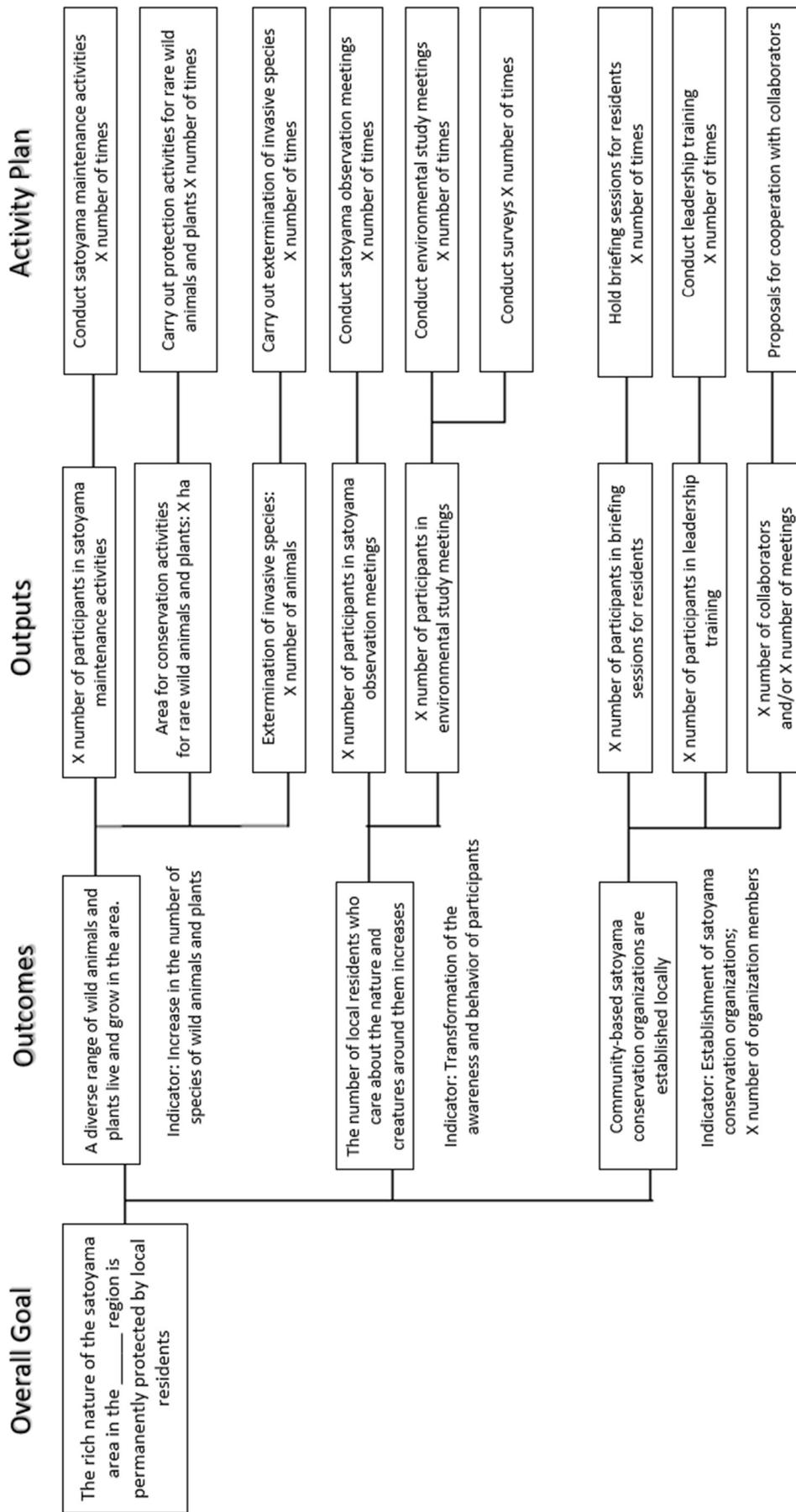
Field of activity	Examples of outcome indicators (What are results measured on?)	Examples of output indicators
Protection, conservation and restoration of nature	The size of land that could be conserved or restored The number of species that survive as a result of conservation efforts The size of land where the management of invasive species could be achieved The amount of increase in the population of a species	The size of the area where conservation activities were implemented The number of people participating in conservation activities The population size of reintroduced species The number of invasive species exterminated
Forest conservation and tree/grass planting, anti-desertification	The size of land that could be conserved or planted with trees/grass The amount (volume) illegal logging has decreased The size of land where the management of invasive species could be achieved	The size of plantation areas, and number of trees planted The number of participants in tree/grass planting activities The number of invasive species exterminated
Environmental conservation-type agriculture	The amount (number of farmers) by which conventional farming has decreased The number of farms and farmers that have established environmental conservation-type agriculture practices The amount production has increased through environmental conservation-type agriculture	The number of regions and farmers that have implemented activities to introduce environmental conservation-type agriculture The number of acres cultivated, number of people active in environmental conservation-type agriculture, and number of people acquiring technology
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	The amount of greenhouse gas reduction	The amount of renewable energy introduced The amount of renewable energy generated, number of facilities The amount of reduction in energy consumption Number of people who have implemented decarbonization activities
Building of a recycling-oriented society	The amount of reduction in disposed waste The resource recycling rate and amount	The number of people who practice the three Rs of waste reduction, implementation rate The number of reused products circulated
Air, water and soil conservation	The size of river, lake, and marsh areas with improved water quality The achievement rate of environmental standards for air quality	The amount pollutants have been reduced The number of water treatment systems installed The number of cleanup activities conducted; number of people involved

Field/form of activity	Examples of outcome indicators (What are results measured on?)	Examples of output indicators
Comprehensive environmental education, provision and dissemination of knowledge	The degree of improvement achieved in awareness-raising (e.g., increased interest and recognition in the community and target group), the number of people who changed their behavior and practiced environmentally conscious behavior as a result of awareness-raising and education	The number of participants in training and events The number of participants in observation meetings and seminars The level of achievement of training/seminar objectives (e.g., comprehension checks based on participant questionnaires) The number of publications distributed The number of participants in, and the dissemination rate of educational programs The number of persons having acquired techniques
International conferences, policy proposals	Changes in national and regional policies Agreements on management, preservation, and compliance	The number of proposals, number of meetings The amount of media coverage The number of followers on social networking services
Surveys and research	Utilization of collected data and reports (cases of citation) Impact on policy and public opinion (will anything change?)	The number of surveys, size of surveyed areas, amount of data collected, number of survey reports, the publication of results on website, etc.

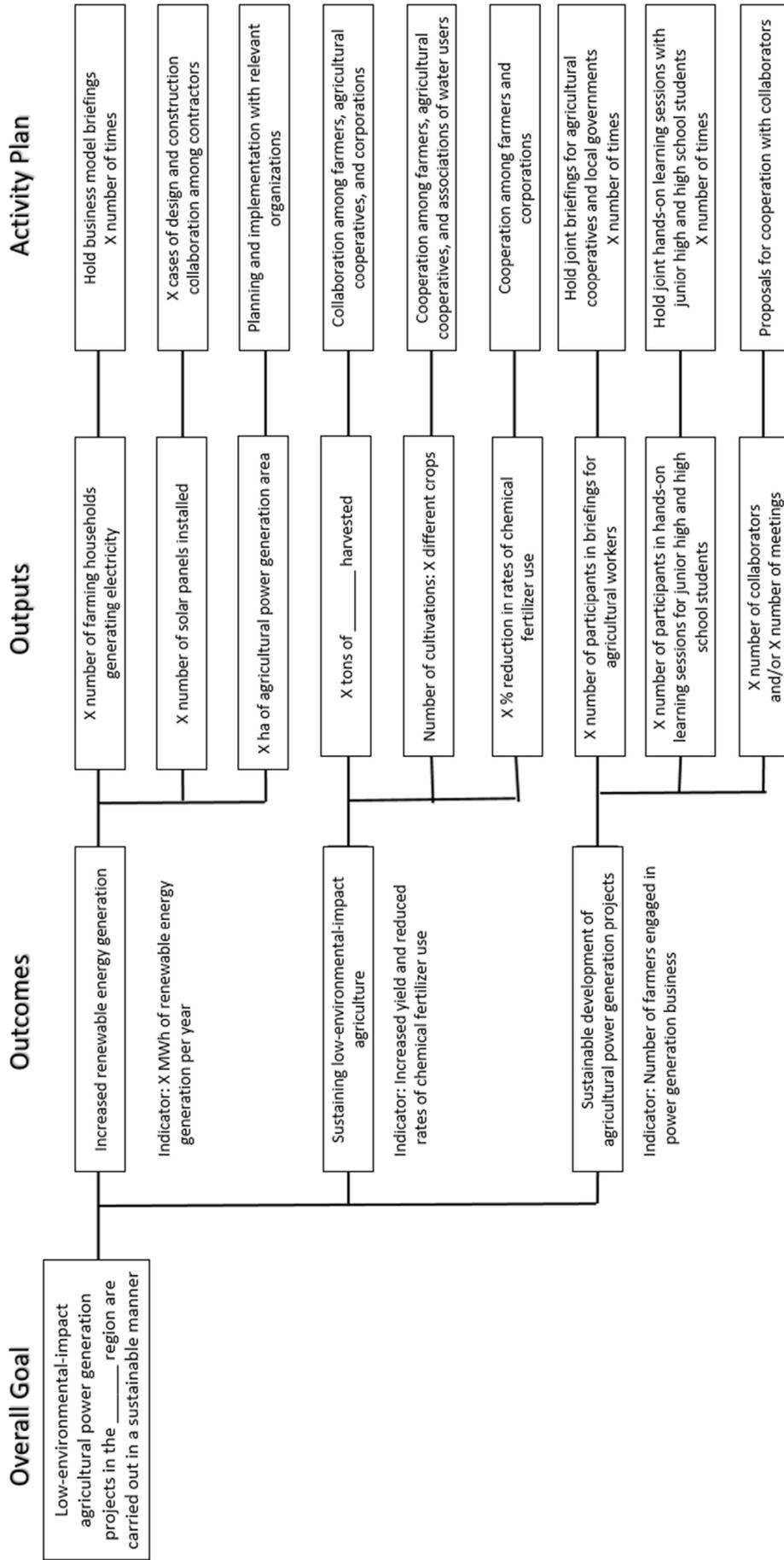
Reference: Logic model for coral reef conservation activities in the \_\_\_\_\_ region



Reference: Logic model for *satoyama* (village forest) conservation activities in the \_\_\_\_ region



Reference: Logic model for promotional activities on agricultural power generation with a low environmental impact in the \_\_\_\_\_ region



<Contact Information>

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<How to submit request forms>

Request forms can be submitted through the "JFGE Grant Application System".  
For instructions on how to submit requests, please visit the below website.

URL: <https://jfge.erca.go.jp>