

## Nature Conservation Activities in Oze by TEPCO

### 1. Outline of Oze

Oze is a general term that refers to the area surrounding the wetlands named Ozegawara. It embraces mountainous areas including Hiuchigatake and Shibutsusan mountains, as well as Ozegawara area surrounded by these mountains at 1,400 meters above sea level, and Ozenuma area at 1,600 meters above sea level. Straddling three prefectures of Gunma, Fukushima and Shiigata, Oze comprises a part of Nikko National Park.

Ozegawara: The largest high altitude wetland on the island of Honshu with an area of 7.6 square kilometers

Ozenuma: A high altitude lake, formed by the eruption of Hiuchigatake, which has a maximum depth of 10 meters and an area of 1.6 square kilometers.

### 2. TEPCO's Relationship with Oze

#### (1) History of Land Acquisition

In 1916, TEPCO's forerunner Tone Hatsuden acquired some land in Oze, whose ownership was later transferred to Tokyo Dento, and then to Tokyo Electric Power Co. when it was established in 1951.

#### (2) Area under TEPCO ownership

Of the 182 square kilometers of the land owned by TEPCO in Oze area, the Ozegawara and Ozenuma areas<sup>(Note)</sup> were recently designated as a candidate for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

	Ozegawara and Ozenuma (TEPCO-owned land on the side of the Sea of Japan)	Katashina River and Tokura Forest (TEPCO-owned land on the Pacific Ocean side)
Natural Parks Law	Special Protection Zone	Special Zone / Ordinary Zone
Law for Protection of Cultural Properties	Special Natural Monument	
Forest Law	Headwater Conservation Forest / Protected Forest for Health	Headwater Conservation Forest
Wildlife Protection and Hunting Law	Wildlife Protection Area	

(Note) TEPCO owns some 70% or 60.9 square kilometers of the land approved by the Ministry of the Environment, which is equivalent to 87 square kilometers (all of the Special Protection Zone in Oze inside the Nikko National Park). According to the real estate register, the area of land owned by TEPCO in Ozegawara and Ozenuma areas comes to 91 square kilometers.

### 3. TEPCO's Nature Conservation Activities in Oze

As landowner, TEPCO has in the past committed itself to continuing efforts to conserve Oze, for instance by diligently working to build and maintain facilities of public nature and rejuvenate damaged vegetation.

#### (1) Construction and Maintenance of Facilities of Public Nature

##### Wooden Paths

Since 1958, TEPCO has built, maintained and managed wooden paths in Oze, equivalent to 20 kilometers in distance, or 35% of all the wooden paths in Oze that total about 57 kilometers. Along with reconstructing the wooden paths once every ten years or so, TEPCO has in some areas built multiple paths for easier traffic and piers to prevent the path from flooding.



<Works to reconstruct damaged wooden path>

##### Bridges

TEPCO has built two (Yoppi Bridge and TEPCO Oze Bridge) of the eight bridges in Oze. We are planning to reconstruct the decaying TEPCO Oze Bridge in the near future.

##### Public Toilets



<Fujimitoge public toilet>

TEPCO has built seven of the 15 public toilets in Oze. All of these toilets are equipped with septic tanks so that the wastewater is purified to a quality on a par with natural river water before it is drained away.

##### Photovoltaic Power Generation Facilities

Photovoltaic power generation facilities are installed at TEPCO Lodge (9.4 kilowatts) and Fujimitoge Public Toilet (4.9 kilowatts).

## **(2) Rejuvenation of Vegetation**

### **Rejuvenation of wetlands in Ayamedaira**



TEPCO launched a vegetation rejuvenation project in Ayamedaira from 1969 to 1996 covering an area of about 9,000 square meters, and will continue to work on portions that have not responded well.

### **Measures to Rejuvenate Damaged Vegetation on Shibutsusan Mountain**

As a party responsible for maintaining and constructing mountain trails, TEPCO has launched an independent survey on the condition of damage to vegetation at Shibutsusan mountain to supplement and verify the survey conducted by Gunma Prefecture's technical committee. This fiscal year, the findings of both surveys will be reported at the Meeting of Emergency Measures for Shibutsusan Conservation so that responsive measures may be examined and implemented.

## **(3) Recycled Paper from Wooden Path Materials**

The discarded materials produced after the reconstruction of wooden paths are recycled into paper. Named "Eco-Paper Recycled from Wooden Paths in Oze," the recycled paper is being made commercially available, and is also used in various pamphlets and as business cards for TEPCO employees.

## **(4) Volunteer Activities**

### **Planting Beech Trees in Tokura Forest**

A total of some 3,700 people have participated in the project to plant beech trees in Tokura Forest, which was started in 1997.



### **Campaign for “Green Volunteers” (volunteers to pick up trash)**

TEPCO is calling on visitors to voluntarily pick up any trash they see while hiking around Oze to drive home the importance of nature conservation.

### **(5) Support for Environmental Education**

#### **Classes on Oze by TEPCO Employees**

TEPCO employees in charge of nature conservation activities in Oze visit schools to talk about such activities carried out over many years and the way of life in Oze.

#### **Compilation and Distribution of Picture Book “Mori-no-Tomodachi” (Friends in the Forest)” and Guidebook “Mori-no-Tomodachi - Buna o Shirou” (Friends in the Forest: Let Us Learn More about Beech Trees)**

TEPCO has compiled the above booklets that tell the readers about the preciousness of and joy of coming into close contact with forests. The booklets are given out free of charge.



### **(6) Participation in The Oze Preservation Foundation<sup>(Note)</sup>**

As a member of the Oze Preservation Foundation since its establishment, TEPCO has launched nature conservation activities in collaboration with the Foundation.

(Note) The Oze Preservation Foundation

The Oze Preservation Foundation was set up in August 1995 by the prefectural governments of Gunma, Fukushima and Niigata, local government organizations, mountain lodge associations, nature conservation organizations, TEPCO and other related parties for the effective promotion of nature conservation in Oze. The Foundation’s various activities include calling on hikers to enjoy Oze in an eco-friendly manner and management of the Visitor Centers in Oze.