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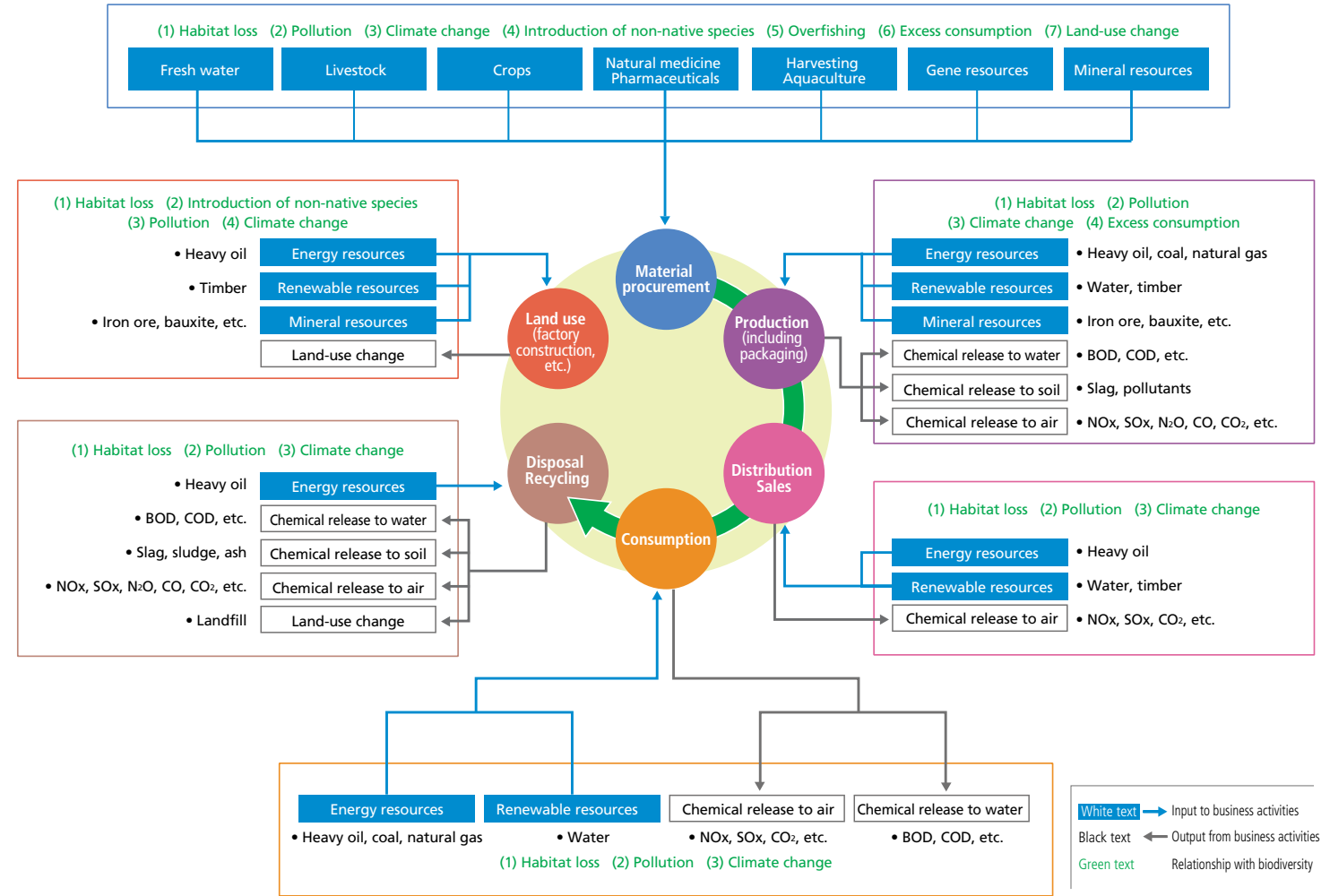
Biodiversity

Our business and biodiversity

Yakult clearly stipulates in one of the Action Directives in the Yakult Basic Policy on the Environment that "In all business activities, business units will give due consideration to the environment as well as biodiversity by promoting the reduction of environmental impacts." We believe it is essential to give consideration to the global environment and biodiversity in our corporate activities that aim to benefit the health of our customers. We will strive to conserve biodiversity going forward by making good use of the technology we have built up in research and development over the years. At each step of our business activities, from material procurement to disposal and recycling, we review our dependency and our impact on the environment, and then clarify the relationship between business activities and biodiversity as shown on the right:

WEB CSR > The Environment > Resource recycling and Biodiversity
<https://www.yakult.co.jp/english/csr/environment/resource/index.html>

Map of relationship between business activities and biodiversity



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Assessment of biodiversity risks for existing operations

In order to better understand the impact our existing operations have on biodiversity conservation, we conduct assessments of how each plant affects the natural ecosystems in the river basins where they are located. We use IBAT to determine the presence of nature conservation areas (world natural heritage sites, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Category I, II, III, IV, and V areas, Ramsar Convention wetlands) and habitats of IUCN-designated endangered species within 10km from each plant.

Assessment of biodiversity around production bases

Plant	River basin	Fiscal 2020 total water intake (m³)	Fiscal 2020 total water discharge (m³)	Assessment using IBAT		Notes on biodiversity (ecological risk)
				No. of aquatic species	No. of endangered species (IUCN-designated)	
Fukushima Plant	Entire Abukuma River basin including Surikami River	164,650	139,724	62	0*	Plant wastewater discharges into the Abukuma River, which has been designated as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) as a landing zone for northern pintail (a duck on the IUCN Red List).
Hyogo Miki Plant	Kako River basin, Muko River basin, Yodo River basin, around Kobe City	272,217	230,115	66	0	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there are no areas of special importance for biodiversity, and no habitats of IUCN-designated endangered species have been identified in the small bodies of water around the plant.
Ibaraki Plant	Tone River system	158,485	139,225	60	0	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there are no areas of special importance for biodiversity, and no habitats of IUCN-designated endangered species have been identified in the small bodies of water around the plant.
Fuji Susono Plant, Fuji Susono Pharmaceutical Plant	Kano River basin	431,455	236,140	63	0	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there is a wildlife sanctuary classified as IUCN Category IV. No habitats of IUCN-designated endangered species have been found in the small bodies of water around the plant.
Saga Plant	Chikugo River system	159,439	113,975	61	0	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there are no areas of special importance for biodiversity, and no habitats of IUCN-designated endangered species have been identified in the small bodies of water around the plant.
Yakult Iwate Plant	Kitakami River system	87,238	50,393	58	0	The area surrounding water sources have been designated as IUCN protected areas, including Category Ib: forest ecosystem conservation area at the source of Kakkonda and Tama Rivers, and Wagadake plant community and forest reserve, and Category II: Towada-Hachimantai National Park and Hayachine Quasi-National Park.
Yakult Chiba Plant	Tone River basin	101,514	35,110	63	1	Water source area has a number of conservation areas classified as IUCN Categories II and IV, such as Joshinetsu-Kogen. Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there is a Category IV protected area (wildlife sanctuary). It has also been identified as a habitat for the Reeves' turtle , classified as endangered by IUCN.
Yakult Aichi Plant	Kiso River, Yahagi River, Shonai River basins	89,766	35,217	66	1	The streams and rivers of the Nobi Plain are habitats for the Madara-naniwa-tombo dragonfly , classified as endangered (Ib by Japan's Ministry of the Environment Red List), and has been designated as a KBA.
Yakult Okayama Wake Plant	Yoshii River basin	112,602	72,936	65	2	There are a number of IUCN Category IV areas within the Yoshii River basin. There are also Category IV and V protected areas within 10 km downstream of the plant. These have been identified by IUCN as habitats for the endangered Reeves' turtle and the vulnerable (DD by Japan's Ministry of the Environment Red List) Chinese softshell turtle .
Yakult Fukuoka Plant	Chikugo River basin	59,224	38,095	92	2	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there is an IUCN Category IV area (wildlife sanctuary). Also, the Japanese grenadier anchovy , classified by IUCN as endangered (Ib by Japan's Ministry of the Environment Red List), and the Ariake stripe spined loach , vulnerable (Ib by the Ministry of the Environment Red List), may possibly inhabit small bodies of water around the plant.
Shonan Cosmetics Plant	Sagami River and Hikiji River basins	14,252	14,083	106	1	Within 10 km downstream of the plant, there is an IUCN Category IV protected area (wildlife sanctuary). Also, the genuine bitterling , classified by IUCN as vulnerable (Ib by Japan's Ministry of the Environment Red List) may possibly inhabit the small bodies of water around the plant.

* The northern pintail duck is not an aquatic species and thus not included in the total

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Conserving biodiversity through afforestation

Participating in Green Wave 2020: Japan

As part of our CSR campaign, we participated in the Ministry of the Environment's Green Wave 2020 biodiversity promotion activity, planting 25 trees at 12 locations throughout Japan on May 22nd, International Day for Biological Diversity.

Planting 10,000 seedlings: P.T. Yakult Indonesia Persada

Yakult Indonesia planted approximately 10,000 seedlings in February 6, 2020 as part of their CSR activities.

Million Trees Project: Yakult China Group

Since 2015, the group has been participating in the Million Trees Project by the NGO, Shanghai Roots & Shoots. The group has donated 2,000 trees every year for six years until 2020. With a total of 12,000 trees planted at the Yakult public welfare forest (13.56 hectares) and an average conservation rate of 68.92% (NGO data), this initiative has been steadily contributing to the afforestation of the area.

Biodiversity conservation in partnership with stakeholders

Both in Japan and overseas, we partner with relevant authorities, local governments, NGOs, NPOs and other stakeholders to promote business activities and social contributions that further biodiversity conservation.

Joining UN and Ministry of the Environment initiatives

The Yakult Group has implemented Yakult CSR campaigns for all workers since fiscal 1994 in line with Japan's Environment Month set forth by the Ministry of the Environment. In fiscal 2017, we joined the My Action Declaration program of the Japan Committee for United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB-J) that encourages biodiversity engagement in daily life, and 15,706 Yakult workers participated by selecting and declaring their commitment to any number of five actions to protect biodiversity. This initiative was highly rated and featured in the UNDB-J's collection of My Action Declaration initiatives.

Related information UNDB-J My Action Declaration Initiatives
https://undb.jp/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/action_jirei.pdf (Japanese)

Partnering with international NGO OISCA

Founded in 1961, OISCA International is an NGO with the highest UN consultative status. OISCA focuses on rural development, environmental conservation, and the cultivation of future talent in the Asia-Pacific region.

Yakult has worked with OISCA in both Japan and overseas to make social contributions since 1979.

● Supporting Children's Forest Program

We support the OISCA Children's Forest Program as an activity related to biodiversity conservation. This program encourages local communities to understand the value of forests and the natural environment, and participate in forest conservation themselves, through activities such as environmental education, community-led tree planting, and helping children green the areas around their schools.

We consult with OISCA to determine specific regions to support, and our contributions have been used for activities in places such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

● Supporting the Coastal Forest Regeneration Project

We support OISCA's Coastal Forest Regeneration Project, which fosters recovery after the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami, and works to conserve biodiversity in the area around our production base (Fukushima Plant). The Forestry Agency has designated biodiversity-conscious zones in the black pine coastal forests (Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture) where regeneration activities take place. Conservation and restoration of biodiversity in these zones has been confirmed by routine environmental assessments. Birds of prey are considered one index of biodiversity, and monitoring has confirmed six species: osprey, common kestrel, peregrine falcon, black kite, common buzzard, and eastern marsh harrier.

Environmental assessments of biodiversity-conscious zones in the Natori area (including newly planted areas) (Source: Japan's Forestry Agency)

	2014	2015	2017	2019	Species of interest
Plants	325	337	370	369	4
Insects	274	278	312	362	13
Birds	34	43	44	48	3
Mammals	4	4	5	3	-
Amphibians	2	2	3	3	-
Reptiles	1	1	1	1	-
Fish	5	3	5	4	1
Zoobenthos	12	32	26	15	1
Total	657	700	766	805	22