

CONTENTS

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Model forest activities to conserve forest biodiversity. | P1 |
| 2. Donated 175 nursery trees to conserve forest biodiversity. | P2 |
| 3. Donate 19 ginkgo trees to preserve the Osaka Midosuji. | P3 |

March 25, 2024
Gunze Limited

In May 2022, Gunze announced its medium-term management plan, "VISION 2030 Stage 1," declaring that it will contribute to society and achieve sustainable growth for Gunze through sustainable management that balances "Social value" and "Economic value". In this newsletter, the company provides information on our sustainable management initiatives.

Gunze established its Environmental Charter in 1997, and by providing environmentally superior products and services, the company contributes to the development of a global society. At the same time, the company strives to live in harmony with the local environment, paying due attention to the preservation of biodiversity, with a proper understanding of the fact that our business activities are highly dependent on the blessings of nature. Therefore, we would like to highlight our efforts to conserve forest biodiversity in this 8th issue.

Model forest activities to conserve forest biodiversity.

Gunze has entered into a forest use and conservation agreement with the Kyoto Model Forest Association and has been conducting forest biodiversity conservation activities as the Kyoto Model Forest activities in Ayabe since April 2010, some 14 years ago. Since 2018, the Obata Castle Ruins Restoration Project has been promoted in cooperation with the local Obata Castle Preservation Association, the Satoyama Net Ayabe NPO, the Kyoto Prefectural Forestry University, the Kyoto Prefectural Chutan Regional Promotion Bureau, and the Ayabe City Agriculture, Forestry and Trade Bureau, and has now been held 46 times. In November last year, as part of the Obata Castle Ruins Restoration Project, various nearby trees were cut down to maintain the maple trees planted the year before. Gunze has been operating its business with the blessings of nature, such as mulberry, cotton, and water. By conducting forest conservation activities with employees and local residents, we realize the importance of the environment and nature, and will continue to contribute to preserving the richness of nature for the future.

Model forest activities and forest biodiversity conservation.

Standing at the ruins of Obata Castle and gazing at the Satoyama landscape stretching out before you, you will be filled with a sense of nostalgia and peace of mind.

In the past, Satoyama were like grocery stores, where you could buy daily necessities such as lumber, firewood, bamboo, mushrooms, wild vegetables, and compost. When you cut down a tree you wanted to use, light would come in, and azaleas and undergrowth would grow with the light.

The hierarchical structure of the forest, with its layers of tall trees, shrubs, and undergrowth, is effective in reducing sediment runoff and mitigating flooding. Recently, however, the relationship between people and forests has become estranged. The model forest activities are a new channel to continue this relationship. We can maintain sustainable and abundant forests by understanding the importance of forests and receiving their blessings in good measure.

Gunze and the local community have come together and continue to work together to create a forest of history and culture, a forest for firewood, and a forest where azaleas and cherry trees bloom. The Forestry University is learning a lot from your activities to train professionals who can learn forestry techniques and propose diverse reforestation ideas.



Mr. Shikata, Instructor Kyoto Prefectural Forestry University

Donated 175 nursery trees to conserve forest biodiversity.

Gunze's pursuit of forest conservation is limited by its own activities and requires cooperation with specialized organizations. Therefore, in accordance with its founding philosophy, Gunze has established the "GUNZE LOVE EARTH CLUB" and consistently supports NPOs and other organizations that strive to "create a sustainable society. Funding for these efforts comes from both member donations and matching gifts from the company.

For forest conservation initiatives, Gunze partners with the Save Earth Foundation. In fiscal 2022, the foundation generously donated 175 hardwood nursery trees, and this partnership will continue with additional nursery tree donations this year.



Forest conservation activities
by Save Earth Foundation



Forest conservation activities
by Save Earth Foundation

Report on the activities of the Save Earth Foundation.

Our Foundation strives to foster a society rich in nature's bounty by focusing on forest regeneration and conservation, forest resource utilization, and forest environmental education. We adhere to the guidelines of the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization in planning and managing forest volunteer activities, which have seen significant participation from numerous volunteers, totaling 237 individuals in 2022. The forests at the seven sites in five regions where we currently have forest conservation agreements have unique characteristics. In cedar and cypress planted forests, activities such as thinning, planting, clearing undergrowth and pruning are carried out to ensure a continuous supply of high-quality timber resources for future generations. In Satoyama forests, we carry out targeted removal of invasive species based on environmental surveys to preserve the ecosystem. In addition, we prioritize forest environmental education for elementary, junior high, and high school students to promote their understanding of nature.

On Sunday, May 14, 2023, a total of 175 hardwood nursery trees were planted in Hyuga Forest (Yamatake City, Chiba Prefecture) as part of our agreement with Yamatake City, Chiba Prefecture, for reforestation and conservation activities. The overall goal of our project is to transition from artificial cedar forests to mixed coniferous and deciduous forests that mimic natural environments in order to preserve biodiversity. Gunze's donation of hardwood nursery stock is greatly appreciated in furthering this goal.



美しい地球を子どもたちに残したい

公益財団法人 **Save Earth Foundation**

Donate 19 ginkgo trees to preserve the Osaka Midosuji Avenue.

In December 2019, Gunze entered into an agreement with the City of Osaka to supply ginkgo trees for the preservation and continuation of the iconic ginkgo trees along Midosuji Avenue, a symbol of Osaka's heritage. Under this agreement, Gunze plants and nurtures ginkgo trees and provides them free of charge upon request for preservation and maintenance by the City of Osaka.

In March 2024, Gunze will provide 19 ginkgo trees. The trees provided so far are thriving, and Gunze pledges to continue cooperation until the 100th anniversary of the completion of Midosuji Avenue in 2037, when the area will be completely renovated. Systematic cultivation is essential to ensure the timely supply of the ginkgo trees needed. To this end, Gunze has established a ginkgo plot on the grounds of its research institute in Ayabe City, Kyoto Prefecture, the birthplace of Gunze, by utilizing the procurement capabilities of its subsidiary, Gunze Green Co.

Gunze aims to contribute to the preservation of the ginkgo trees along Midosuji Avenue and to enhance the city's attractiveness through environmentally conscious practices, drawing on the mulberry cultivation technology developed in its historic silk industry operations.



Ginkgo provided in February 2023 is growing well.



Ginkgo growing in Ayabe, Kyoto, where the company was founded.

Ensure a stable supply of ginkgo trees to preserve the ginkgo-lined Midosuji Avenue.

Gunze Green has been involved in the procurement of Ginkgo trees for the preservation of the Ginkgo trees on Midosuji Avenue for more than 20 years and has delivered more than 180 trees. In 2018, 40 trees were delivered as a result of the damage caused by Typhoon No. 21. The ginkgo trees we are delivering this time were shipped from contracted plots in Tochigi and Ibaraki prefectures. In recent years, it has become difficult to secure ginkgo trees. The speed of tree production has not kept pace with the demand for greenery. Therefore, Gunze has established a plot on the grounds of our Research Institute in Ayabe City, Kyoto, where the company was founded, to secure ginkgo trees for cultivation.



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