



Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy

– The Minato Plan for Biodiversity –

FY 2018 – FY 2020

Digest version

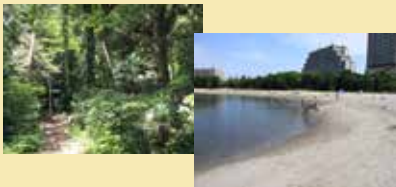


Biodiversity refers to a state in which numerous living things exist while interacting with each other. Numerous living things have evolved while adapting to various environments over the many years since the beginning of life on Earth, 4 billion years ago. Today, there are said to be more than 30 million different types of living things on the Earth. The Convention on Biological Diversity states that the three levels of diversity are ecosystem diversity, species diversity, and genetic diversity.

Three levels of biodiversity

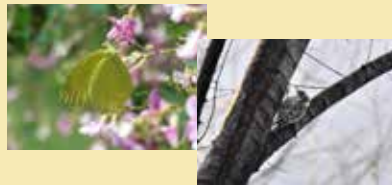
Ecosystem diversity

Many types of ecosystems are formed in each region, such as forests, grasslands, rivers, and oceans.



Species diversity

Countless types of living things are surviving and thriving, including numerous animals, plants, fungi, and bacteria.



Genetic diversity

There are differences between living things at the genetic level even for the same species.



We humans are also part of biodiversity, connected to all the other many life forms, and enjoying the bounty provided by biodiversity such as food and water. The bounty provided by biodiversity can roughly be divided into four categories. These can also be called “ecosystem services.”

The familiar bounty of biodiversity (ecosystem services)

Provisioning services

Things that support our daily lives, such as food and fuel

Grains, vegetables, fruits, fibers, wood, medicine, coal, oil



A view of the Eco Plaza where wood is being utilized

Regulating services

The functions of living things that work on nature and stabilize the environment

The stabilization of the environment and weather, purification of the atmosphere, water purification, flooding control, control of infectious disease



Trees planted on a highland slope in order to stabilize it (Takanawa area)

Cultural services

The source of peace of mind and the arts

Spiritual fulfillment, aesthetic enjoyment, traditional culture such as rich local arts and beliefs, the wisdom and traditions of coexistence with nature



Artworks using fallen leaves (Association to Observe Minato City Greenery and Living Things)

Supporting services

The survival system for all life

Water circulation, soil formation, nutrient salt circulation, oxygen generation through photosynthesis

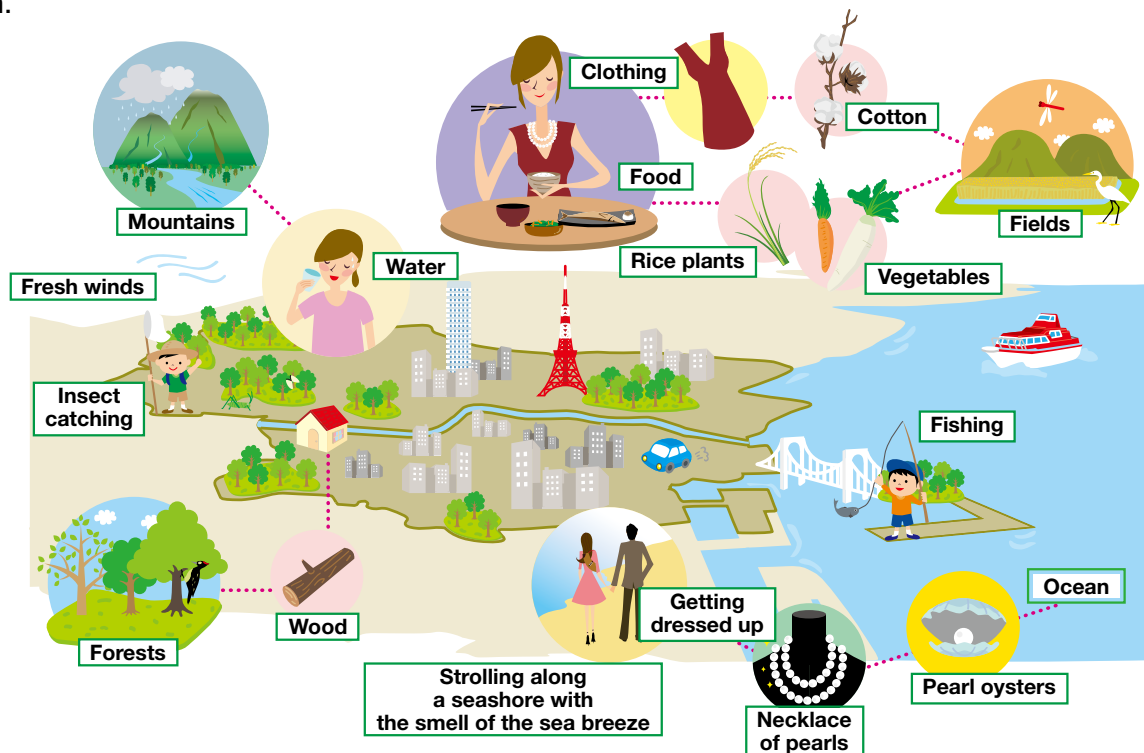


Spring water in Kamezuka Park caused by the richly rolling terrain

Minato City encompasses residential areas with a population of 250,000 people while also possessing some of the leading commercial and tourism areas in Tokyo's 23 cities. It is also an international city with many embassies and foreign residents.

It is a city in which the terrain richly varies from plateaus to reclaimed land, and which still retains locally-indigenous nature centered on the sites of temples and shrines and old samurai residences. However, most of it is urban areas and the opportunities for the people to interact with nature are limited.

Daily life and work in Minato City are supported by a variety of commodities such as food, energy, etc. which are supplied from domestic rural areas and overseas. We are able to live comfortably because we have the bounty of biodiversity created by the various kinds of nature and living things on the Earth.



In order to ensure that future people can enjoy the bounty of biodiversity and live abundantly, it is necessary to hand down to the future not only the familiar nature but also all of the biodiversity on the Earth.

<Nature in Minato City>

- Terrain:** Minato City features richly rolling, complex terrain with differences in altitude from the plateaus on the west side to the reclaimed land on the coastline. Furthermore, spring water can be seen in many places at the bottom of the highland slope.
- Environment:** Although it is a city, Minato City has numerous environments including forests and grasslands, ponds, rivers, oceans, etc. A particular feature is that there is much greenery in the form of forests and grasslands, and the ratio of greenery, which shows the area ratio of these areas of greenery, is 21.78%, meaning that approximately one-fifth of the total area of Minato City is covered with greenery.
- Living things:** According to the “Minato City Survey of Existing Conditions of Organisms (Phase 2)” implemented in 2008-2009, 2,171 species of living things have been confirmed. Many species adapted to living in cities such as the large-billed crow, etc. and many invasive alien species such as the American crayfish, etc. can be observed, while on the other hand endangered species such as the Japanese eel and golden orchid, etc. can also be observed.

The “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy – The Minato Plan for Biodiversity –” was established in March 2014 with the objectives of enhancing the habitat and growing environment of the plants and animals which are symbolic of a rich natural environment, and comprehensively promoting efforts for the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, based on the “Basic Act on Biodiversity,” the “National Biodiversity Strategy” and the “Minato City Ordinance for Preservation of Greenery.”

The plan covers all of Minato City, and the target periods, which have been set according to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, are a short-term target period of seven years in FY2014-2020 and a long-term target period of 37 years in FY2014-2050.

Schedule related to the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy”

FY	H26 2014	H27 2015	H28 2016	H29 2017	H30 2018	H31 2019	H32 2020	H33 2021	~ ~	H62 2050
Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy	Short-term target period (first half)				Review	Short-term target period (second half)				Long-term target year
	Long-term target period									
Minato City Basic Plan	Review				Review					
Plan for the world and the Japan	Country reports on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets						Short-term target year for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets			Long-term target year for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Background to interim review of the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy”

For the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy – The Minato Plan for Biodiversity –” the views of numerous stakeholders including city residents, businesses, academics, etc. were reflected in the establishment of four goals, 12 action policies, and 21 action plans, and the efforts to date were advanced with 2020 as the short-term target year.

FY2017 is the middle year of the seven years until FY 2020, in the short-term target period, so this time we have conducted a review in order to verify the effects to date and operate the plan more effectively.

<The three approaches of the review>

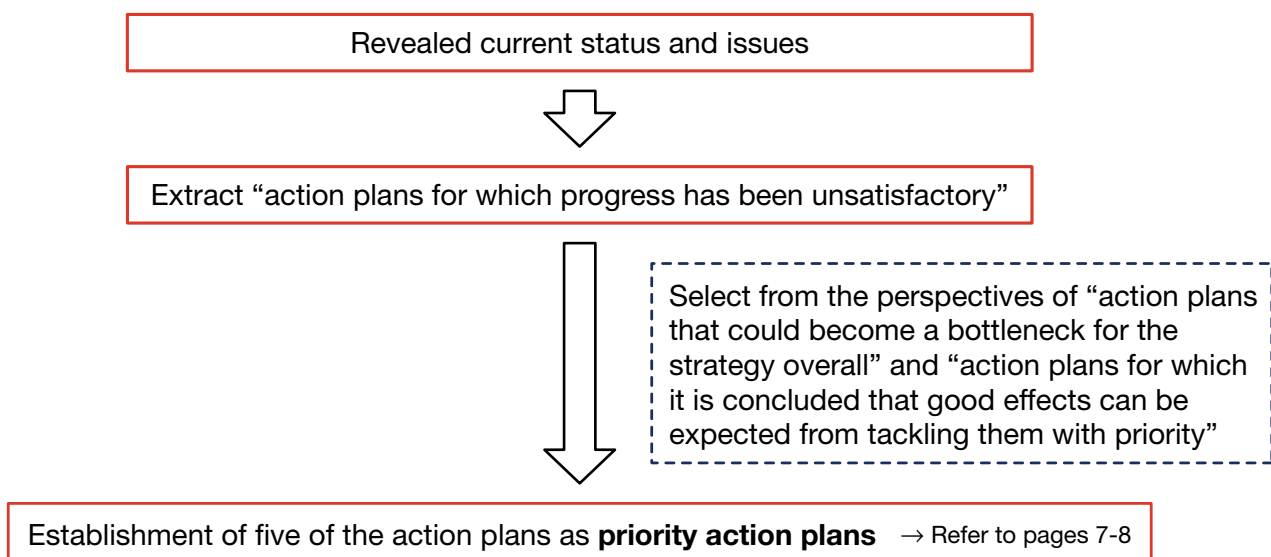
- Inheritance of the image aimed for
- Inheritance of goals 1-4, the action policies, and the action plans
- Taking into account the state of progress to date, review the achievement goals, the roles of each stakeholder, the content of the efforts, and the business plans

When conducting the present review, we conducted information collection in order to check the state of progress of the efforts, a questionnaire survey in order to check the awareness of city residents and businesses, and local confirmation (local survey and interviews) in order to check the present condition of parks, etc.

<Revealed current status and issues>

- ◇ Recognition of the word “biodiversity” is no higher than approximately 70% among the city residents.
→ Effective promotion of public awareness to improve recognition
- ◇ Low recognition of accreditation systems such as FSC accreditation, MSC accreditation, etc.
→ Effective promotion of public awareness to improve recognition
- ◇ Understanding about invasive alien species is stagnant.
Installation of signboards to promote public awareness of invasive alien species is delayed.
→ Effective promotion of public awareness to improve understanding and further promotion of public understanding projects
- ◇ The number of registrants (individuals and organizations) in the “Minato City Greenery Activists System” and the “Biodiversity Minato Network” is stagnant.
→ Build mechanisms to encourage participation
- ◇ Regarding the management of areas of greenery, some city residents and businesses are using chemical pesticides.
→ Presentation of a correct management policy for areas of greenery
- ◇ Regarding biotopes, there are wide variations in maintenance and management policies, so the establishment of model projects to carry out appropriate maintenance and management through collaboration is delayed.
→ Presentation of a correct management policy for biotopes

Based on the current status and these issues, the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy – The Minato Plan for Biodiversity –” FY2018-2020 extracts “action plans for which progress has been unsatisfactory” and establishes five of the action plans as priority action plans.



Minato, a community full of smiles through the coexistence of community vitality and living things, and with gratitude for the bounty of biodiversity

In the Minato City of the year 2050, there will be nature for living things to thrive, and the community is also full of vitality. The people have a close relationship with nature, and are able to experience the bounty thereof. The people develop a rich spirit of gratitude for nature, and daily life is filled with smiles. Minato City aims to be a community that protects biodiversity, and works for the sustainable use of the bounty thereof. “Minato” is a community of vitality that coexists with nature.

Goals and projected achievements that Minato City aims for by 2020

Short-term goals

Goal 1:
Increase opportunities to learn about biodiversity to spread the understanding thereof

Goal 2:
Live and work in a way that takes biodiversity into consideration

Goal 3:
Achieve progress in developing a community that can coexist with nature and living things

Goal 4:
Achieve progress in local and wide area collaborations to increase the appeal of the community

Achievements in 2020



Everyone understands the importance of biodiversity.



Shops stock certified products that take biodiversity into consideration, allowing consumers to more easily choose those.



Wild vegetation grows in parks and near office buildings, and numerous living things live there. Activities to protect and revitalize living things in Furu-kawa River, canals, and along the coast of Tokyo Bay are being promoted.



Urban residents participate in vigorous exchanges with rural communities, such as visiting forests and water sources in the surrounding area and help in growing rice or managing forests.

Goal 1
Increase opportunities to learn about biodiversity to spread the understanding thereof

- Action policy** (1) **Learn about/spread information on biodiversity**
- ▶ Collect basic data on the biodiversity of Minato City and communicate the present condition of biodiversity and its importance to numerous people.
- Action policy** (3) **Communicate information about biodiversity at preschools and schools**
- ▶ Increase places at preschools and schools for learning about biodiversity and interacting with nature.

- Action policy** (2) **Increase interactions with nature**
- ▶ Increase opportunities for interactions with nature, and learning about the connections between daily life and biodiversity.
- Example visiting lecture at a school by a professional



Goal 2
Live and work in a way that takes biodiversity into consideration

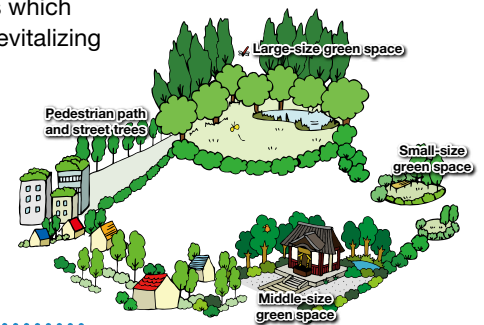
- Action policy** (1) **Begin by changing one's lifestyle**
- ▶ In addition to energy-saving measures and actively working on the 3Rs, it is necessary to consciously change behavior in daily life, for example by purchasing products that take biodiversity into consideration, etc., and to promote those ways of daily life.
- Action policy** (2) **Carry out work in a way that takes biodiversity into consideration**
- ▶ Promote the activities of businesses, namely implementation of projects that take biodiversity into consideration, employee education and community activities.



Example action menu preparation in cooperation with a business

Goal 3
Achieve progress in developing a community that can coexist with nature and living things

- Action policy** (1) **Create and connect with familiar nature to build abundant habitats for living things**
- ▶ Connect areas of greenery which are the habitat centers for living things with small-scale areas of greenery and roadside trees, etc. to create an ecological network (ecosystem network) in which it is easy for living things to live.
- Action policy** (2) **Protect and nurture the existing natural resources in the community**
- ▶ In order to retain the valuable nature of Minato City and increase spaces which living things can use, build up abundant biodiversity by protecting and revitalizing the valuable natural environment and improving water quality, etc.
- Action policy** (3) **Protect against the effect of invasive alien species on the ecosystem**
- ▶ Spread the correct understanding of invasive alien species and promote behavior based on correct knowledge.
- Action policy** (4) **Study the ecosystem and weather for use in improving the natural environment**
- ▶ Continuously conduct surveys on living things and the natural environment in order to check the present condition and changes over years in the greenery and water, living things, weather, etc. in the city, and consider appropriate measures.



Ecological network diagram

Goal 4
Achieve progress in local and wide area collaborations to increase the appeal of the community

- Action policy** (1) **Make use of the bounty from the community's biodiversity**
- ▶ Communicate the culture and traditions related to biodiversity as the appeal of the community.
- Action policy** (2) **Strengthen activities by connecting with projects inside and outside of the city**
- ▶ Establish places in which diverse stakeholders can have exchanges inside and outside of the city, and cooperate with numerous stakeholders.
- Action policy** (3) **Spread everyone's activities and promote them**
- ▶ Increase the organizations and participants engaged in activities with the theme of biodiversity while building systems for information sharing and cooperation, and cooperating.



Example cooperative community activity

The Action Plan and content of the efforts

Goal	Action policy	Action Plan*
1. Increase opportunities to learn about biodiversity to spread the understanding thereof	(1) Learn about/spread information on biodiversity	1-(1)-(i) Promote the collecting and public awareness of data regarding biodiversity
	(2) Increase interactions with nature	1-(2)-(i) Create opportunities for learning
		1-(2)-(ii) Prepare places to easily interact with nature
(3) Communicate information about biodiversity at preschools and schools	1-(3)-(i) Support preschools and schools	
2. Live and work in a way that takes biodiversity into consideration	(1) Begin by changing one's lifestyle	2-(1)-(i) Promote living that takes biodiversity into consideration
	(2) Carry out work in a way that takes biodiversity into consideration	2-(2)-(i) Promote work and ways of working that take biodiversity into consideration
3. Achieve progress in developing a community that can coexist with nature and living things	(1) Create and connect with familiar nature to build abundant habitats for living things	3-(1)-(i) Promote community development that takes living things into consideration
		3-(1)-(ii) Prepare environments for living things to thrive in that make use of such local greenery as parks and green spaces
	(2) Protect and nurture the existing natural resources in the community	3-(2)-(i) Protecting and revitalizing the natural environment to increase biodiversity
		3-(2)-(ii) Protecting important natural environments
		3-(2)-(iii) Select a life form to serve as a symbol for protecting and revitalizing the natural environment
	3-(2)-(iv) Develop a biotope and promote the appropriate maintenance thereof	
	3-(2)-(v) Protect/develop proper water circulation and improve the water quality of bodies of water	
(3) Protect against the effect of invasive alien species on the ecosystem	3-(3)-(i) Prevent the invasion and spread of invasive alien species	
(4) Study the ecosystem and weather for use in improving the natural environment	3-(4)-(i) Continuously survey the natural environment and increase surveys carried out with local resident participation	
4. Achieve progress in local and wide area collaborations to increase the appeal of the community	(1) Make use of the bounty from the community's biodiversity	4-(1)-(i) Introduce spots where one can learn while enjoying biodiversity
		4-(1)-(ii) Create the "pride" of the community to symbolize biodiversity
	(2) Strengthen activities by connecting with projects inside and outside of the city	4-(2)-(i) Promote exchange and cooperation within the city
		4-(2)-(ii) Promote exchange and cooperation that extends beyond the borders of the city
	(3) Spread everyone's activities and promote them	4-(3)-(i) Collect and publish data on biodiversity and prepare centers for learning
4-(3)-(ii) Create an umbrella organization with diverse stakeholders and promote the activities of each stakeholder		

* ■, ■, ■, and ■ indicate a priority action plan.

Content of new efforts in the priority action plans

[Action Plan 1-(1)-(i)] (Pages 40-41 in the main guide)

Systematically organize methods of understanding and spreading biodiversity and focus efforts on the promotion of public awareness from the three familiar perspectives of "food," "children and child-rearing," and "ways of working." Moreover, advance new promotion of public awareness based on targets such as communities and generations, etc.

[Action Plan 2-(1)-(i)] (Pages 48-49 in the main guide)

Introduce and recommend the purchase of accreditation systems for products and services created taking biodiversity into consideration, such as FSC accreditation and MSC accreditation, etc., through the city website, distribution of public awareness posters and leaflets, panel displays at events, etc. Actively introduce the accreditation systems by using FSC accreditation acquisition papers in the publications of the city, and posting explanations, etc.

Content of the efforts	Page in the main guide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote the understanding of biodiversity and the wide dissemination of the strategy ● Publish basic data on biodiversity ● Promote providing information via booklets with information about the nature in Minato City ● Promote providing information via a web site 	P40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create opportunities for interactions with nature ● Promote understanding of the importance of nature through food ● Workshop for preparing fields for learning biodiversity ● Carry out an experiential learning farm project to study biodiversity 	P42
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare parks in which living things can thrive ● Promote management taking into consideration organisms in parks and areas of greenery ● Improve the shore environment of canals and the Furu-kawa River 	P44
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distribute and spread the “Biotope Management Handbook” ● Promote professionals to support preschools and schools through visiting lectures and advice 	P46
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Suggest an action menu that takes biodiversity into consideration ● Introduce products and companies that take biodiversity into consideration to city residents 	P48
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create and spread a “biodiversity action menu for businesses” ● Create an awards program for excellent projects 	P50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider evaluation techniques for an ecological network ● Spread a guideline for improving biodiversity ● Provide directions for architecture and community development that is helpful for improving biodiversity ● Give awards for and promote public awareness of excellent projects that prepare, maintain and manage facilities that take biodiversity into consideration 	P52
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider the places for planting and the plants to be planted ● Monitor the inhabiting situation of living things ● Promote management of areas of greenery without using chemical pesticides 	P54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protecting and revitalizing the natural environment to increase biodiversity ● Survey of Existing Conditions of Organisms in priority locations 	P56
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protecting forested areas in the city ● Protecting natural monuments and specific plant communities 	P58
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Select and promote the public awareness of a life form to serve as a symbol for protecting and revitalizing the natural environment 	P60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a biotope ● Promote the maintenance, management, and operation of biotopes and hold study groups ● Support to encourage biotope creation and appropriate maintenance and management 	P62
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Install rainfall infiltration facilities and protect spring water sites ● Improve the water quality of bodies of water 	P64
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote the public awareness necessary to prevent the invasion and spread of invasive alien species 	P66
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuously survey the natural environment ● Increase surveys carried out with local residents participation 	P68
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collect and introduce information on local biodiversity spots 	P70
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create the “pride” of the community to symbolize the bounty of biodiversity 	P72
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host the “Biodiversity Minato Forum” ● Promote cooperation projects with businesses ● Promote cooperation with the Institute for Nature Study ● Implement cooperation projects related to biodiversity with embassies 	P74
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cooperate with local governments with rich forest resources and local governments along the coast of Tokyo Bay, etc. ● Cooperate with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the surrounding cities ● International cooperation 	P76
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare centers for learning that collects and communicates information about biodiversity, and utilize environmental learning facilities, etc. 	P78
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Train and support the personnel who will engage in the activities ● Establish and operate the “Biodiversity Minato Network” ● Promote projects which each of the stakeholders cooperate to implement 	P80

[Action Plan 3-(2)-(iv)]

(Pages 62-63 in the main guide)

Distribute the “Biotope Management Handbook” and implement workshops on its content, and propose to the managers the goal images and concepts for each biotope, and management policies based on them. Hold observation meeting and study groups in the field of biotopes, and present biotope utilization methods.

[Action Plan 3-(3)-(i)]

(Pages 66-67 in the main guide)

Strengthen efforts to install signboards to warn the public not to release alien species in lakes in municipal parks. Implement study groups for aiming for dissemination and public awareness while observing alien species in the field of lakes in municipal parks, and implement workshops for managers.

[Action Plan 4-(3)-(ii)]

(Pages 80-81 in the main guide)

Promote cooperation projects by numerous stakeholders, such as businesses engaging in activities open to communities, companies and NPOs cooperating to support schools, etc., through the introduction of projects, etc. Furthermore, strengthen cooperation projects devised by Biodiversity Minato Network members.

Promotional organization and progress management

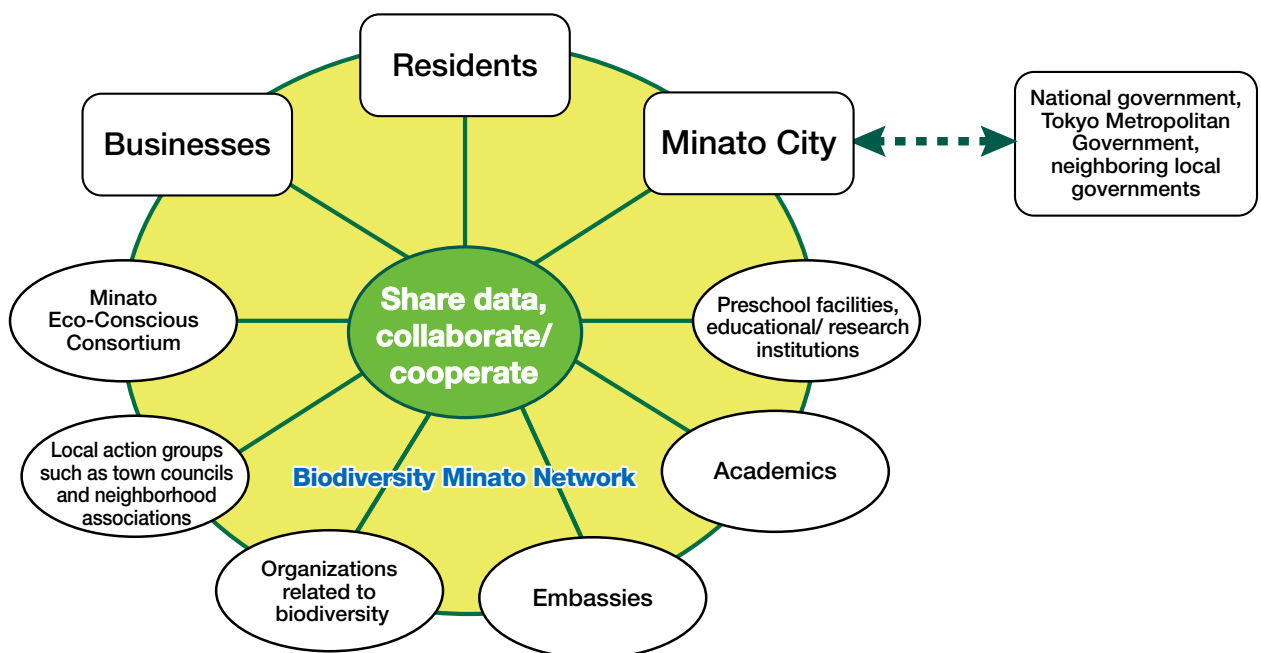
(1) Promotion of cooperative efforts between numerous stakeholders

The “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy” cannot be achieved by Minato City alone. It requires the residents and businesses, preschool facilities and educational and research institutions, as well as academics, to collaborate and cooperate with a mutual understanding of each other’s roles in order to carry out efforts for the protection and sustainable utilization of biodiversity.

(2) Operate the Biodiversity Minato Network

Minato City will take on the role of connecting the various stakeholders with an interest in biodiversity.

Minato City will operate the “Biodiversity Minato Network” as an organization to share the information held by the city, residents, businesses, preschool facilities, educational and research institutions, and academics, and cooperate to carry out projects. The organization will promote autonomous efforts of each stakeholder and collaborative efforts carried out among them.



(3) Promotional organization of Minato City

Related departments will collaborate and cooperate in their efforts to realize the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy.”

To carry out the project, the “Minato City Green Planning Committee,” formed from related departments of the city, will coordinate with related departments. Meanwhile, the “Minato City Greenery and Water Committee,” comprising residents, academics, and businesses, will leverage declarations by professionals to ensure the project is carried out comprehensively and effectively.

(4) Cooperation with the national government, Tokyo government, neighboring local governments, and people outside the city

Minato City will work to cooperate and collaborate with the national government, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and neighboring local governments through data sharing and technical support.

Specifically, efforts will be made to collaborate and cooperate with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in the protection of areas of greenery and the shoreline environment in light of the fact that Tokyo manages primary areas of greenery and water resources that serve as habitats for living things, such as Tokyo Metropolitan Parks, the Furu-kawa River, and canals.

There will also be data sharing and collaboration with the neighboring Chiyoda, Chuo, Koto, Shinagawa, Shibuya, and Shinjuku cities, and with Ota and Edogawa cities along Tokyo Bay.

(5) Principle roles of stakeholders

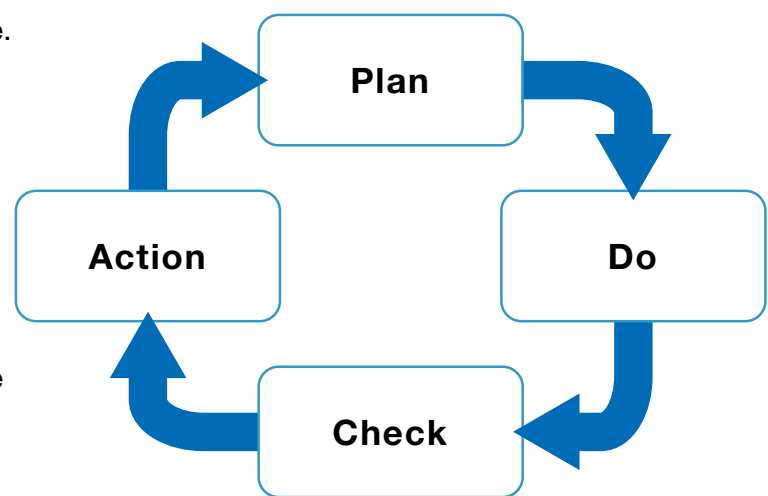
Primary roles of Minato City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Promote efforts for the achievement of the “Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy” ◇ Operate the “Biodiversity Minato Network” ◇ Promote public awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and promote activities by numerous stakeholders ◇ Promote community development that considers the ecological network ◇ Lobby and cooperate with the national government, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and neighboring local governments ◇ Regularly implement the “Minato City Survey of Existing Conditions of Organisms”
Primary roles of residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Be aware of the importance of biodiversity and the bounty thereof ◇ Practice a lifestyle that takes biodiversity into consideration ◇ Communicate the importance of nature to children ◇ Participate in opportunities to interact with nature and living things ◇ Participate in biodiversity protection activities and community nature revitalizing activities
Primary roles of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Promote business activities that take biodiversity into consideration ◇ Promote public awareness of biodiversity inside and outside the business ◇ Carry out activities to protect biodiversity at the business ◇ Participate in and support activities to revitalize local natural resources
Primary roles of preschool facilities, educational/research institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Promote play and educational activities that are related to nature ◇ Education and public awareness regarding biodiversity ◇ Train personnel and develop technology for autonomous activities that take biodiversity into consideration ◇ Carry out or participate in activities to protect biodiversity on facility grounds or in the community
Primary roles of organizations related to biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Collect and communicate information about the living things and environment in communities ◇ Train personnel for involvement in activities to protect biodiversity ◇ Create opportunities for local nature studies and experiential learning ◇ Promote efforts related to lifestyles and economic activities that take biodiversity into consideration

(6) Progress management

Progress management of this strategy is continuously carried out using the PDCA cycle.

Carry out the progress management for each fiscal year in the “Minato City Green Planning Committee” formed from related departments of the city and implement projects efficiently while carrying out coordination.

Professional statements issued by the “Minato City Greenery and Water Committee,” composed of residents and academics, will be leveraged in progress management. Results will be shared with both the “Minato City Greenery and Water Committee” and “Biodiversity Minato Network.”



Strategy progress management



Minato, a community full of smiles
through the coexistence of community
vitality and living things,
and with gratitude for the bounty
of biodiversity



The full text of the Minato City Biodiversity Regional Strategy,
“The Minato Plan for Biodiversity,” FY 2018-2020 is available
on the official Minato City Website.

<http://www.city.minato.tokyo.jp>

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