Komatsu recognizes that social contributions to the communities in which it conducts its business activities are an important corporate responsibility. Komatsu defines the social contribution activities as activities related to its three CSR themes that are not directly aimed at generating earnings. Based on this definition, we seek to contribute to society in a manner that leverages the strengths of our core business.

Social Contribution Activities

The company has been playing a major role in promoting TEC in South Africa. Academic and Industry-Academia Collaborations (16%)

In FY2018, the students at Sedibeng TVET College in Johannesburg, South Africa, accepted this program. The new program will provide students majoring in mechanical and/or electrical engineering with a curriculum of technical and practical vocational training. Since the launch of the curriculum, the students have been playing an active role in local communities and thereby contribute to the local economy.

United States: A Partnership to Bring Back Forests

In April 2019, Komatsu announced that it will be involved in a forest restoration project at the site of a closed mine in the Appalachian region of the U.S. Partnering with Green Forests Work (GFW), a nonprofit organization specializing in mine reclamation and greennification techniques that utilize the benefits of forests, Komatsu embarked on a three-year project through which it plans to restore 1,000 acres (4 square kilometers) of West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest by 2021. For this project, we will be supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Forest Service.

In this project, Komatsu will offer support for land reformation and saplings purchases, rent equipment, and provide employee volunteers for tree planting activities. We will also work to spread sustainable mine reclamation techniques that are friendly towards forests and other vegetation.

By leveraging the strength of our core business, we contribute to the communities to the greatest extent possible.

More than one billion people directly depend on forests for their livelihood. And the rest of the world's population relies on forests for a variety of economic, social and environmental benefits. "These forests provide all of our recreation, all of our value of why we live here," said Shanda Minney, executive director of the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation and a resident of West Virginia in the Appalachian region of the eastern United States. "It makes a huge difference to our quality of life as well as the environmental sustainability of the land around us."

Minney's foundation works to protect and restore natural forested environments in Appalachia, an area impacted significantly by the long-term mining of natural resources. One of her partners in this effort is Dr. Christopher Barton, founder of Green Forests Work, a non-profit organization dedicated to proper mine reclamation methods and the reforesting of formerly mined lands.

"What we were seeing in the Appalachian region was a shift in land use and the elimination of these vital forests," Barton said. "What was predominantly a forested environment prior to mining was being reclaimed as grasslands because it was the only thing that grew in the tightly compacted land required for mine closure. And as time went on the amount of that grassland got larger and larger. We got to the point where, looking at Google Earth, you can see these huge footprints of former forest land where trees no longer grow."

Since the organization was founded in 2009, Green Forests Work (GFW) and its volunteers have planted millions of trees to restore more than 4,000 acres of formerly mined land in Appalachia. Now, through a partnership with Komatsu, GFW is on track to restore an additional 1,000 acres in West Virginia’s Monongahela National Forest by 2021.

"Our idea was to create what we called a regenerative economy," said Rod Schrader, chairman & CEO—Komatsu America Corp.

"Willing partners are necessary to make the impact required," Minney said. "There's an endless need and that can't be met by any one group on their own. Partnerships are critical to bringing all of the resources and all of the money in to do this important work."

With the power of Komatsu and our industry partners behind reforestation efforts, the opportunity to affect positive change grows exponentially.

"I think this is a great example of a major effort Komatsu is making to contribute to the communities and to the planet," said Jeffrey Dawes, president & CEO—Komatsu Mining Corp. "The concept to be working in reforestation is great but we needed a catalyst. We needed someone to help us join. Green Forests Work has the ideas and the know how. We've got the resources and we've got the intention. So we're a great match to get this done."

"Our equipment digs the earth and it's part of our job to make sure that we're good stewards of that earth and doing things that are helping our local communities," said Rod Schrader, chairman & CEO—Komatsu America Corp.

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"We work to put all that money right back into these areas that were impacted.

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