



Hahajima Island

Natural Heritage Guide



Value of Hahajima Island as a World Natural Heritage site

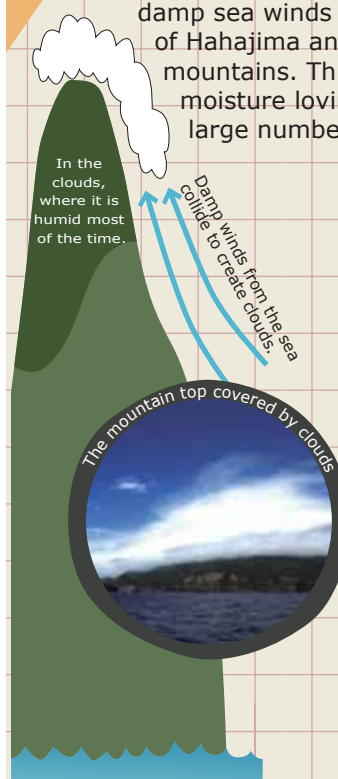
Ecosystem: notable example of biological evolutionary process

In the Ogasawara Islands, we can find numbers of endemic species that have evolved into various forms in small islands isolated by the sea. The on-going evolutionary processes of animals and plants can be witnessed here.



Subtropical rain forest

Forest of tall trees distributed in areas such as Sekimon in Hahajima Island. Clouds are created by damp sea winds running up the high mountains of Hahajima and cover the upper parts of the mountains. This forest composed of rain- and moisture loving plants provide habitat for a large number of endemic creatures.

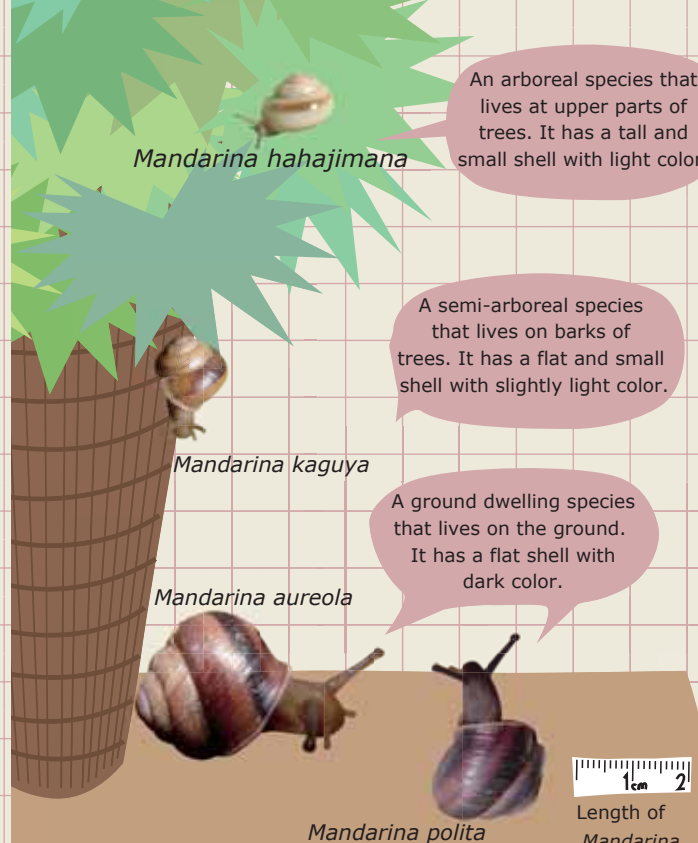


Although *Boninosuccinea ogasawarae* (endemic species) is a species of snail, its shell has been degenerated adapting to a humid environment.



Land Snails

Among the various animals and plants found in Ogasawara, snails are a representative group of animals that have attained diverse evolution. At least 90% of the snails are endemic species. In particular, snails belonging to the *Mandarina* genus have differentiated into various shapes and colors as a result of evolutionary processes to adapt to specific habitats, such as trees and the ground.



Reasons for Ogasawara being inscribed as a World Natural Heritage site

As a result of unique evolution in small islands isolated by the sea, a large number of endemic creatures and their ecosystems can be observed in Ogasawara. This was valued highly and these islands were designated as a World Natural Heritage site in June 2011.



Animals & Plants

In the Ogasawara Islands, a large number of endemic species are distributed in small islands. Hahajima Island is an important breeding site for the lycaenid butterfly and the endemic subspecies of Japanese wood-pigeon.



Lycaenid butterfly

This is the most threatened butterfly in Japan. It once inhabited Chichijima Island, but can now only be found on Hahajima Island. Natural monument.



Japanese wood-pigeon

It is a type of pigeon with a purplish-red colored head. Hahajima Island is an important breeding site. Natural monument.



Bonin honeyeater

It has characteristic black triangle patterns around the eyes. Hahajima Island and its satellite islands (Mukohjima Island and Imotojima Island). Special natural monument.

Calanthe hoshii

This species only grows on Hahajima Island, and only a few strains of this plant grow in the wild.



Changing ecosystem

The original ecosystem of Ogasawara is changing because of the impact of animals and plants brought in by people (alien species).



Various measures taken to restore the original ecosystem of Ogasawara.

See next page for details.

Map of the Hahajima Island Natural Heritage



— Road
— Trail

To prevent invasions of alien species:

Wrong? Please do not bring in plants, animals, soil, or seedlings with soil.

Seeds and small insects may live in the soil.

Stop!

おがさわら丸
OGASAWARA MARU

To prevent the spread of alien species:

Brush off all traces of soil when you go out.

Some seeds can stick to your clothes.

Small animals

Soil

Insects

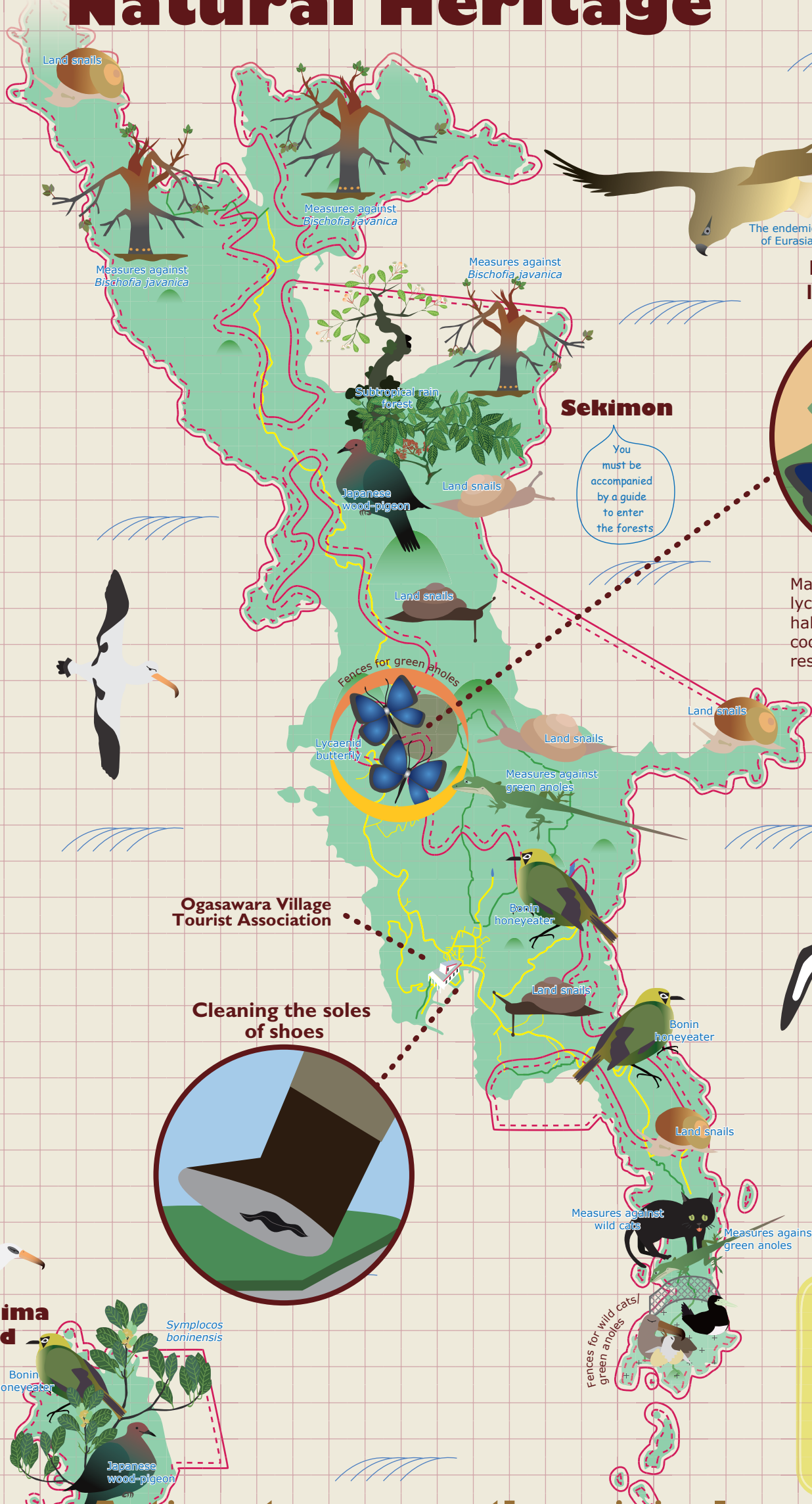
Do not roll up your pants.

Check the soles of your shoes.

To protect the home of endemic species:

Follow the designated route.

Forests are home to many different living things.



Protection of the lycaenid butterfly

You must be accompanied by a guide to enter the forests.

Many efforts to protect the lycaenid butterfly and its habitat are made with the cooperation of local residents.

For information about guided tours:
Hahajima Tourist Association, Ogasawara

+81(0)4998 3 2300

Closed: When the day following departure of Ogasawara Maru is a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday.

8:00~12:00, 13:30~17:00

Actions to recover the original ecosystem of Ogasawara

Bischofia

Drill, place chemicals in holes, and cork.

Chemicals are used to control *Bischofia* to stop its rapid invasion of the endemic forests of Ogasawara and to restore the original ecosystem.

Green anoles

Green anoles live only on Chichijima and Hahajima Islands, where people also live. Traps are set around the ports to prevent green anoles from spreading across to the satellite islands. To protect the insects on Hahajima Island, efforts have been made to partially eliminate green anoles using measures such as enclosing parts of the forest with fences.

Predatory flatworm

The predatory flatworm eats land snails. The flatworms, its eggs and other alien species can be spread when they stick to the soles of shoes. To prevent such species invasions of Hahajima Island, people disembarking from the Hahajima Maru boat are asked to wash the soles of their shoes on a mat soaked with seawater.

Wild cats

"Mew!"

On Hahajima Island, seabird breeding grounds in Minamizaki are enclosed with fences to protect breeding seabirds from attacks by wild cats. In addition, wild cats are captured by using basket traps mainly in areas close to the fences.