

Supplementary Information for
IUCN Evaluation of the “Ogasawara Islands” (Japan)

Government of Japan

November 2010

Responding to the request for supplementary information from IUCN, management authorities of the nominated property, i.e., the Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Ogasawara Village, have jointly compiled the following information. In the process, we consulted the local stakeholders and consensus was formed among the members of the Regional Liaison Committee. Advice from the members of the Scientific Committee was also incorporated.

We also would like to take this opportunity to report some progresses made in conservation management of the nominated property after the evaluation mission.

Request 1. Marine components of the boundary of the nominated property

Supplementary Information 1

Marine Park Zones of the Ogasawara National Park were mainly designated according to the area of coral distribution, except for the area surrounding Minamijima, which was designated from the viewpoint of specific geomorphological and geological features. The coral distribution areas are not recognized as attributes of outstanding universal value proposed in the nomination document. However, for snorkeling or diving, Marine Park Zones and neighboring coastal parts of the nominated property are sometimes used in an integrated manner.

For this reason, the Government of Japan deems that adopting the recommendations from IUCN and incorporating the Marine Park Zones into the nominated property would be meaningful from the viewpoint of improving management effectiveness, including such benefits as promoting awareness raising on the part of the visitors and enhancing the integrity of island ecosystem by maintaining the continuity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Based on this view, we would like to change the boundary of the nominated property to include all the Marine Park Zones adjacent to the terrestrial part of the nominated property.

Please find attached a revised map of the nominated property, which was agreed upon by the relevant organizations and stakeholders at the Regional Liaison Committee (Figs.1-1 through 1-5). The revised nominated area is shown in Table 1.

Request 2: Buffer Zone

Supplementary Information 2

We have confirmed that, in effect, Ogasawara National Park serves as a functional buffer zone for the nominated property in line with the provisions in the Operational Guidelines. The regulations restricting development in Ogasawara National Park are explained in the table on page 162 of the nomination document. The marine area belongs to Ordinary Zone while the terrestrial area belongs

to Special Zone.

Furthermore, the area outside of the nominated property in the “World Heritage Management Area” explained on pages 14 and 21 of the nomination document, i.e., the area outside the nominated property encompassed by the outer boundary of Ogasawara National Park, also, in effect, serves as a functional buffer zone for the nominated property in line with the provisions in the Operational Guidelines based on the following regulations:

- As for the neighboring areas of the nominated property on Chichijima and Hahajima Islands, which are outside Ogasawara National Park, the national forests are designated as a Forest Ecosystem Reserve and subject to the regulations explained on page 163 of the nomination document. Also, almost all of the terrestrial areas not included in the National Park are designated as part of the Ogasawara Archipelago National Wildlife Protection Area and subject to the regulations on actions in the table on page 164 of the nomination document.

- In addition to the regulations explained above, overdevelopment is prevented on Chichijima and Hahajima Islands in accordance with land use classifications, such as residential areas, agricultural areas, nature protection areas and so on, based on the Ogasawara Islands Promotion and Development Plan shown in Appendix 5-12 of the nomination document. Furthermore, the areas outside Ogasawara National Park also have some regulations restricting development. For example, in accordance with the Ordinance of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, it is necessary to acquire a permit from the governor of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government when someone intends to develop lands containing natural areas of a certain size (Annex 1).

Request 3. Extent of alien invasive species

Supplementary Information 3

As shown in the table below, the mapping exercise of invasive alien species by analysis of aerial photos and ground survey has been completed for the Chichijima Island Group and Hahajima Island. The resulting distribution maps are annexed.

| The area of the map | Invasive alien plant species | Map number in Annex. |
|---|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chichijima, Higashijima, Nishijiima, Minamijima. | All of the following species: | Fig. 2-1 |
| | Casuarina, | Fig. 2-2 |
| | Bischofia, | Fig. 2-3 |
| | Lantana, | Fig. 2-4 |
| | Okinawa pine, | Fig. 2-5 |
| | Leucaena. | Fig. 2-6 |
| Anijima, Ototojima, Magojima | All of the following species: | Fig. 3-1 |
| | Casuarina, | Fig. 3-2 |
| | Lantana, | Fig. 3-3 |
| | Okinawa pine, | Fig. 3-4 |
| Hahajima | All of the following species: | Fig. 4-1 |
| | Casuarina, | Fig. 4-2 |
| | Bischofia, | Fig. 4-3 |
| | Okinawa pine, | Fig. 4-4 |
| | Leucaena. | Fig. 4-5 |

The relevant management authorities have been working together to control these invasive alien plants.

On Ototojima and Hirajima Islands, eradication of mature trees of Bischofia has already succeeded. Control operations for Bischofia using herbicide injections have been conducted starting with priority areas, i.e. northern part and the Sekimon area of Hahajima. This work is shared by the Forestry Agency and the Ministry of the Environment. The progress in Bischofia eradication is shown in Figure 5. As for Casuarina and Okinawa pines, eradication in the delimited area is progressing in the eastern part of Chichijima, Anijima, Ototojima and so on. As a result of these efforts, some visible outcomes can be observed. For example, the breeding site of *Rhinocypha ogasawarensis*, an endemic dragonfly, is recovering because the shading effects of Bischofia over streams were removed.

On the other hand, some invasive alien plants now play a role in providing ecosystem services together with native plants, and it has been pointed out that there are potential negative impacts on the ecosystem if rushed and careless countermeasures are undertaken. Based on the scientific advice from the Scientific Council, we will conduct control programs against invasive alien plants carefully and strategically according to the management plan and conservation action plan in a manner that reflects interspecies relationships for each island.

Supplementary Information 4 (Progress since the evaluation mission)

Based on the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the conservation program for the Bonin flying fox (Annex 2) has been formulated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of the Environment on November 11, 2010. The Bonin flying fox is the only native terrestrial mammal in the nominated property and is endemic to the islands. Based on this program, these ministries will work in coordinated manner on ecological surveys and measures, which include steps for the conservation of the habitats of this species.