

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Property Scientific Council  
1st Meeting, FY2013  
Summary of Results (Scientific Council's Advice)

The following advice etc. were provided at the first meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Property Scientific Council for Fiscal Year 2013, which was held on Chichijima Island of the Ogasawara Islands on July 13, 2013.

**Agenda Item 1: Matters Related to the Organization of Subsidiary Working Groups in this FY**

- Following the detection of the green anole invasion on Anijima Island at the end of last fiscal year, changes were made to the responses of subsidiary working groups that had been approved by the Scientific Council at the last meeting. Therefore, reports were made by the chairperson of each working group and the secretariat regarding the past developments and policies for future actions. Then, the Scientific Council gave advice and made requests.

**1. The Working Group on Green Anole Emergency Measures on Anijima Island**

- The "Green Anole Short-Term Prevention and Elimination Plan for Anijima Island of the Ogasawara Islands" was approved under the condition that, with respect to the secondary defense line, the line for the installation of the fence will be decided on, based on the on-site confirmation by a council member specializing in vegetation.
- It was approved to dissolve the "WG on Green Anole Emergency Measures on Anijima Island", which had been set up on an emergency basis, and to establish a working group that consists of a small number of specialists as soon as possible. The selection and appointment of the members were entrusted to the chairperson, Dr Okochi.
- It was requested that the new WG respond quickly and flexibly to the requests from the local liaison committee, take over the on-going discussion on the "Road Map for Green Anole Elimination on the Ogasawara Islands (provisional name)", and support activities for information sharing to obtain local people's understanding and cooperation and activities for the promotion of the participation of local people.
- The need to strengthen the risk management system against the invasion of alien species was pointed out as a lesson learned from the detection of the green anole invasion on Anijima Island and the subsequently-conducted emergency measures. Management bodies were requested to consider this matter as a separate issue.

**2. The Working Group on the Revision of the Action Plan**

- With regard to "Policies and Schedule of the Revision of the Second-Phase Action Plan", the WG was requested to coordinate fully with the secretariat about the following three points:
  - i. Prior to the preparation and publication of the Second-Phase Action Plan, a report shall be made to the Regional Liaison Committee and an opportunity to hear its opinions shall be secured;
  - ii. In order to have sufficient discussion on other places than Anijima Island, where significant changes are

occurring, the frequency of the WG meetings and the timing of the Action Plan preparation shall be changed as necessary; and

iii. In order to facilitate flexible response for adaptive management, a system shall be considered in which the results and impacts of projects are periodically reviewed and the plan is revised.

– With regard to the “Direction of Revising the Action Plan for Anijima Island”, it was agreed to entrust the consideration of the specific content of the Action Plan to the “WG on the Revision of the Action Plan” on condition that it addresses the following two points together with the top priority matters presented in the basic policy are discussed:

i. “Eradication” shall be included as an option to be considered for the appropriate method of controlling black rats; and

ii. The “elimination of *Leucaena*” shall be additionally considered as an activity related to the conservation of sclerophyllous scrub.

### 3. The Working Group on the Prevention of the Invasion and Spread of New Alien Species

– It was advised to pay attention to the following two points, when the WG discusses thoroughly the prevention of invasion and spread of new alien species from now on.

i. On Anijima Island, rapid growth of alien plants such as *Bothriochloa bladhii*, *Rhynchelytrum repens*, and *Bidens biternata* has been observed, as projects against alien species have been implemented. Therefore, when the WG discusses the prevention of the spread of alien species from Chichijima Island to its satellite islands, the prevention of human-induced introduction of alien plant species shall also be considered.

ii. No officer from the management bodies in charge of the World Natural Heritage is stationed on a full-time basis on Hahajima Island. Therefore, when the WG discusses measures related to goods transportation, which is most relevant to the daily life of local people, attention shall be paid to heed the opinions of residents on Hahajima Island in particular.

– For particularly high-risk species, such as the green anole, the predatory flatworm, and the fire ant, there is a need to consider, as a matter of urgency, emergency responses to make in case of their invasion to uninvaded areas within the Ogasawara Islands. Therefore, it was requested to add this matter to this FY’s agenda of the “Working Group on the Prevention of the Invasion and Spread of New Alien Species”.

### 4. The Establishment of a Working Group on Ecosystem Conservation and Management of the Chichijima Island Group

– It was approved to newly establish the “Working Group on Ecosystem Conservation and Management of the Chichijima Island Group” as a subsidiary working group of the Scientific Council. With regard to this WG, the Scientific Council gave the following three advices:

i. The WG should aim to propose the methods for the conservation and management of forest ecosystems of the Chichijima Island Group as one whole, without limiting its discussion to the measures against alien species;

ii. The WG should have discussion, keeping in mind that the output of this WG will be utilized for the

- revision of the action plan etc.; and
- iii. The WG should consider adding a mammal specialist as a member of this WG.

## Agenda Item 2: Report on Other Projects

### 1. FY2012 Project Result and FY2013 Project Plan

- Following the detection of green anole invasion on Anijima Island at the end of last fiscal year, changes were made to the FY2013 Project Plan, which had been approved by the Scientific Council at the last meeting. Therefore, the secretariat gave a report on the major changes etc. Advice and requests made by the Scientific Council are as follows:
  - The installation of protective fences against the invasion of the predatory flatworm is a project of utmost urgency for the in-situ conservation of endemic land snails of Chichijima Island. Therefore, the project shall be realized as soon as the budget is secured; and
  - Since the Project Plan for FY2013 had some missing parts and items that require reconfirmation, the plan must be closely examined by the related organizations once again and the corrections and additions are made, which shall be reported to the Scientific Council.

### 2. Other Matters

- It was reported by the secretariat that, during the session of World Heritage Committee held in late June, 2013, information on the invasion of the green anole on Anijima Island and the status of measure enforcement was given to the staff members of IUCN and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in charge.
- Dr Okochi, the chairperson of the Scientific Council, reported that opinions were exchanged with the Ecotourism Association, which shared information on the current status and challenges of the response to and the prevention of accidents, the guide registration and licensing system, the rules, the facility installation and management, etc.. He commended the appropriateness of the Ecotourism Association's activities and stated the need for further coordination and cooperation among the related organizations to resolve the remaining issues.

End of Report