

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage
Regional Liaison Committee
Summary of Results
FY2015

The results of the meetings of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2015, which were held on 17 July and 15 December 2015 are as follows:

1. Revision of the terms of reference of the Regional Liaison Committee
 - The proposed revision of the terms of reference of the Regional Liaison Committee was approved and the Ogasawara Environmental Planning Laboratory was admitted to join the committee as a new member.

2. Consideration of the local issues related to the management of the World Natural Heritage site
 - (1) Measures for the coexistence with the Bonin flying fox (*Pteropus pselaphon*)
 - The working group in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following requests to the Scientific Council.
 - The Scientific Council should provide its comments on the issues on the Bonin flying fox which the local body is unable to handle and prepare the table for discussion on the matters which the Scientific Council is unable to provide solution to.
 - The Scientific Council should discuss the proper population of the Bonin flying fox from a scientific viewpoint and start consideration among scientists about how to deal with the excessive population.

 - (2) Consideration of measures to prevent the invasion and spread of new alien species as pets
 - The working group in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following report:
 - The working group would like to remind the villagers and relevant people that finding a proper method of managing and keeping pets is necessary, now that the policy of coexisting with pets is opted for despite the recommendation of IUCN against keeping pets on the Ogasawara Islands.

 - (3) Consideration of measures to prevent the invasion and spread of new alien species
 - The Committee agreed that the suspension of the working group for the prevention of the invasion and spread of new alien species as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Council in next fiscal year on condition that the channels for having specialists' opinions as necessary in the process of the development and implementation of countermeasures.
 - The Committee agreed that the management plan would be revised jointly by the working group as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Council and the working group as a subsidiary

body of the Regional Liaison Committee.

- The working group in its capacity as a subsidiary body of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following requests and opinions to the Scientific Council and the management bodies.
- As the invasion of the oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) on Amami Oshima Island is a serious issue also for the Ogasawara Islands, it should be dealt with also in the working group as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Council. It should be discussed from the viewpoint of forest ecosystem conservation as an intense threat to natural resources.
- Measures to address alien species should be considered, in preparation of the arrivals of ships from abroad at Chichijima Island, planned to start this March.
- Prevention of the invasion of alien species should be considered as the highest priority and a forum for discussing the measures to prevent the invasion of alien species at entry points should be set up.
- Measures to check soil as the vector of the planarian, the oriental fruit fly, millipedes (*Chamberlinius hualinensis*), etc. should be strengthened.
- Prevention of the invasion of alien species and measures to address those that have already entered the Ogasawara Islands should be distinguished on the agenda for the working group for local issues which will continue to discuss these issues.
- The budget and human resources should be clarified, so that measures to address *Pheidole megacephala* in the area already invaded can be initiated promptly.
- It is difficult for local government agencies and local groups alone to respond to such problem as big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*), about which there is no clear administrative jurisdiction, as it arises. In light of this, the possibility of improving the structure of the working group for the prevention of the invasion and spread of new alien species as a subsidiary body of the Scientific Council should be discussed as soon as possible.
- The role and members of the working group for local issues should be carefully adjusted to allow wider participation of relevant departments as needed, in confronting new issues.

3. Role of the meeting

- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee made the following requests:
- Concrete procedures should be developed for communication between the Regional Liaison Committee and the Scientific Council.
- The role of the Scientific Council should be reconsidered once again.

4. Measures to promote the participation of villagers

- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee made the following request:
- Experience is an important pillar of eco-tourism. Work for the elimination of alien species etc. should be designed as part of an eco-tour, providing opportunities for participants to enjoy program with some free time, instead of considering them simply as voluntary workforce.

5. The working group for the revision of the management plan and the action plan

- It was reported for information purposes that a working group is planned to be set up under the Regional Liaison Committee in next fiscal year for the revision of the management plan and the action plan.
- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee gave the following opinions and requests:
 - For the development of the next management plan, the following four groups of people need to participate in the discussion: people with scientific knowledge, people familiar with the site, people who can apply organizational theory to what can be done, and villagers who will be affected by the management plan.
 - The working group for the revision of the management plan and the action plan should show what to do in the next five years concretely in these plans, while ensuring coordination with the management plan of the national park.

6. Other matters

- It was reported for information purposes that in relation to the event to celebrate the 5th anniversary of World Heritage inscription, the municipal governments of the four World Natural Heritage properties in Japan started to discuss various possibilities of future coordination.
- It was requested that the population of rats and the status of damage on inhabited islands should be surveyed and that measures against rats on inhabited islands should also be discussed in the future based on the results of the survey.