

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage  
Regional Liaison Committee  
Summary of Results  
FY2016

The results of the meetings of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2016, which were held on 7 July and 22 December 2016 are as follows:

1. The way of reporting from the Regional Liaison Committee
  - The members of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following requests:
    - Reporting documents should be formatted, corresponding to the recommended items from IUCN.
    - The progress of the measures to strike a balance between tourism and World Heritage protection should also be reported.
    - With regard to alien species measures, the first paragraph should consistently begin with the name of the beneficiary species.
    - Because no sufficient time is allocated for reporting, making it difficult to digest it to understand the progress or the problems, a separate opportunity should be provided for the purpose of reporting.
  
2. The revision of the management plan
  - It was agreed that the Regional Liaison Committee mainly takes care of updating the descriptions about the inhabited islands, whereas the Scientific Council mainly presents the progress, the results, the problems, and the evaluations of the measures that are taken on the uninhabited islands to the Regional Liaison Committee.
  - In relation to this topic, the members of the committee gave the following opinions and requests:
    - The operating system of the management plan should be reconsidered.
    - The roles and responsibilities of the Regional Liaison Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be considered.
    - With regard to the matters that are left undiscussed, apparently not falling under the ambit of any of the existing schemes, it should be institutionalized as a normal procedure or system that the government officers check if there is any existing legal instrument that can address any of them and then explore how to deal with the matters that really do not fall under the ambit of any existing schemes in the following fiscal year.
    - A major meeting for management plan revision should also be held on Hahajima Island.
    - The way that the meeting proceeds should be streamlined. Just reading the documents aloud is not appropriate to consult the members of the Regional Liaison Committee for constructive ideas.
  
3. Consideration of the local issues related to the management of the World Natural Heritage

property

(1) Consideration of measures to prevent the invasion and spread of new alien species

- 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:
  - The Scientific Council should take responsibility for assessing what species are risky and deciding on the strategy to address them, as the situation related to new alien species is changing. There are quite a few matters that are beyond the capacity of the regional committee.
  - What is prohibited by the municipal bylaw to control the *formosan subterranean termite* should be widely disseminated.

(2) Consideration of measures to prevent the big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*)

- It was reported that the task force for the big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*) was to be made a subsidiary body of the Regional Liaison Committee and that a system was to be in place to be able to consult with specialists, as appropriate, for evaluation of measures.
- The members of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following requests:
  - The result of the measures taken to address the big-headed ant in the Minamizaki area is far from elimination. It should be discussed not only what should be done for the already-invaded areas but also specifically how to prevent the spread of the ants in the island and the invasion of new alien species.
  - The measures against the big-headed ant should be implemented on the entire Chichijima and Hahajima Islands with the participation of all the related stakeholders and with the cooperation of the Scientific Council members.
  - The policies of measures for the entire Hahajima Island, which have yet to be established, should be set out, while the evaluation of the ongoing measures is made.
  - Since eradication does not seem to be completed as is planned, the necessary budget and human resources should be allocated.

(3) 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:
  - As the working group has entered the phase to discuss concretely the possibility of establishing an ordinance concerning the management of pets, further discussion should be proceeded with the participation of people of Hahajima Island in the working group.

(4) Measures for 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 reports:
  - The bait-production field in Susaki is to be continued as a model in cooperation with the related stakeholders and similar activities are to be expanded to other areas in the future.

- From the next meeting onward, specific measures should be discussed to solve the problems, instead of reviewing the past problems.

#### 4. Major projects by the related bodies

##### (1) Trial area-wide rat eradication campaign in Okumura area

- The secretariat made the following report:
  - Area-wide eradication campaigns are to be carried out on a trial basis in other areas, too, while technical improvement is made; however, it would require the cooperation from relevant organizations in terms of both human and financial resources, although efforts will be made to plan efficient implementation.

##### (2) Measures to deal with feral goats for the restoration of vegetation

- The member of the committee expressed the following opinion:
  - The method of capturing feral goats should be improved, for example by hunting them in a pincer movement or using hunting dogs.

#### 5. Other matters

##### (1) The past developments and future policies related to the conservation of Nishinoshima Island

- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee made the following requests:
  - Decisions about conservation policies should not be made without sufficient understanding of the residents of the village, especially for matters that limit their rights.
  - Sufficient information should be provided to local people so that they can understand the value of Nishinoshima.

##### (2) Operation of the World Heritage Center

- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee made the following requests:
  - On Hahajima Island, a facility to tackle alien species which is similar to the World Heritage Center on Chichijima Island should be set up.
  - A government officer(s) in charge of the world heritage should also be stationed on Hahajima Island.

##### (3) Event to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Heritage inscription

- In relation to this topic, the member of the committee expressed the following opinion:
  - The awareness-raising event in which various people who are working for ecosystem conservation on the site participated was good.

##### (4) Procedural matters

- In relation to this topic, the members of the committee made the following requests:
  - One of the Regional Liaison Committee meetings that are held twice a year should be held on Hahajima Island (as the main venue).

- The purpose of each explanation should be made clear--for example, whether it is only a unilateral report or opinion exchange is expected. Good time-keeping should also be made.
- Time should be allocated for matters about which the Regional Liaison Committee can make its evaluation, separately from those to be assessed from the scientific viewpoints.