

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council Meeting, FY2016 Summary of Results (Advice from the Scientific Council)

The following advice was given to the management authorities in the meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council for the Fiscal Year 2016, which was held on 22 December 2016.

Agenda Item 1: Addressing the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

- The Scientific Council received reports from the secretariat on each item addressing the decision of the World Heritage Committee and gave the following advice and requests.

(1) Request (a): Efforts to address invasive alien species

- i. Measures to deal with green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*) on Anijima Island
 - The Council is of the view that the insect fauna in the island is conserved in good condition at this stage and that the density of green anoles is controlled at a low level.
 - On the other hand, the Council recognizes that green anoles have widely spread in the area to the south of B-line fence to prevent anole spreading to the northern area.
- ii. Consideration of the conservation of land snails
 - Conservation introduction of land snails to Nishijima Island should not be implemented until this matter has been examined by the working group for the conservation of land snails based on the guideline and consensus has been built among the residents of the islands, with advice from the members of the Scientific Council,.
 - In that process, coordination should be made with the discussions at other relevant advisory committees.
- iii. Consideration of the conservation and management measures for forest ecosystems
 - The consideration of the conservation and management measures for forest ecosystems should be continued as heretofore.
 - Measures to address invasive native species such as *Caesalpinia bonduc*, which have emerged as a new issue recently, should be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis for different places, depending on high-priority conservation targets.
- iv. Consideration of the revision of the management plan and the action plan
 - The consideration related to the management plan and the action plan should be continued with the subsidiary body of the Regional Liaison Committee playing a role as the leading body for the former and the secretariat for the latter. The Scientific Council will give advice to them and update the descriptions related to the heritage value in the management plan accordingly.
- v. Consideration of the conservation project for land snails on Anijima Island
 - Though it has yet to be confirmed whether rats on Anijima Island have been eradicated or not—even if they have not been eradicated yet—it is a commendable, significant achievement that the project has been completed without any accidents, resulting at least in decreasing the density of rats to a very low level.
 - Maximum efforts should be continued toward complete eradication of rats or making use of the state of low density of rats, depending on the situation on Anijima Island.

- vi. Measures to address rats for the recovery of the ecosystems on Minamijima Island
 - Measures should be taken, utilizing the findings from the rats eradication project on Anijima Island.
- vii. Community-wide trial rats control in the Okumura area
 - It is commendable as the first attempt in the residential area.
 - It should be continued, while improvements are made by setting clear targets and reviewing the method, with a view to benefitting from continuity.
- viii. Measures to address feral goats on Chichijima Island
 - Eradication of feral goats should be carefully implemented, ensuring that the ecosystems to be conserved are protected and keeping in mind possible future ecosystem changes that would be caused by the eradication of feral goats on Chichijima Island.
- ix. Measures to address feral cats
 - As is currently discussed at the Committee for the Programs for Rehabilitation of Natural Habitats and Maintenance of Viable Populations, it should be determined what is threatening *Columba janthina nitens* —whether it is cats, rats, or the vegetation —before any move is made to the next step.
- x. Plan for restoration of forest ecosystems of national forest
 - This plan sets out different target forest types for different areas, which should be taken into consideration when the management plan is revised or other projects are implemented.
- xi. Progress of the measures to address new alien species
 - In order to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to address new alien species, it should be considered whether it is not necessary to re-open the corresponding working group under the Scientific Council, which has been temporarily closed, and what role it should play.
- xii. Operation of the Local World Heritage Center
 - The Scientific Council received reports from the management authority without giving particular advice.
- (2) Request (b): Environmental impact assessment
 - The Scientific Council received reports from the management authority without giving particular advice.
- (3) Recommendations from (a) through (d)
 - The Scientific Council received reports from the management authorities without giving particular advice.
 - The Scientific Council will discuss the monitoring of climate change, receiving reports from each management authority

Agenda Item 2: Response to the advice related to the conservation and management of the World Natural Heritage

- With regard to the conservation of the Bonin flying fox (*Pteropus pselaphon*), necessary responses should be made on a continuous basis, including the possibility of having discussions with the participation of experts on megabats and local

residents.

- With regard to the past developments caused by volcanic activities and future plans of the conservation of Nishinoshima Island, research should be conducted for the time being about the value of the island in view of the possibility of future World Heritage re-nomination.

Other Matters:

- The results of the expert meetings that are organized based on the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in which no member of the Scientific Council takes part should also be widely shared among the people concerned.