

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage
Regional Liaison Committee
Summary of Results
FY2017

The results of the meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2017, which was held on 19 December 2017, are as follows:

1. The draft of the revised management plan

- The members of the Regional Liaison Committee made the following requests:
 - Work such as the close examination of the content of the plan and the streamlining of the items included in the plan should have been done before the 7th meeting of the working group was held in November. The secretariat should continue to work on the revision carefully, listening to villagers' voices. The status and roles of the working group should be clarified.
 - The secretariat should explain properly about its views about the opinions expressed by villagers and how it responded to them.
 - Alien species on Hahajima Island is one of the big problems that need to be addressed. Efforts should be continued to go beyond the development of the management plan and promote the implementation of actual measures.
 - Now that only one month is left for finalizing the revision of the plan, everybody should join forces in its own position and capacity to ensure that opinions from local communities should be reflected.
 - The current measures against rats on the residential island are too slow to deal with the increasing number of rats. It would be necessary to accelerate the speed of countermeasures.

2. The report of the major projects related to the management of the world heritage site

- The members of the Regional Liaison Committee gave the following opinions and requests:
 - The current measures against feral goats on Chichijima Island are having difficulties. If the current capturing approach is continued without improvement, it would only increase cost and spend time without much result. Options for improvement should be explored, including for example the introduction of hunting dogs.
 - The eradication of feral goats is not the final goal but one of the methods to manage the nature of the island. When measures to address feral goats are discussed, policies should be set out for the management of alien plants, which should be done in parallel with the eradication of feral goats.
 - Both feral goats and feral cats should be eradicated as soon as possible. The measures against alien plants should be taken by all the management bodies including Tokyo Metropolitan Government.
 - With regard to the measures against *Geonemertes pelaensis* on Hahijima Island, which is mentioned in the draft management plan, it would be necessary to take measures to prevent it from causing further damage on Hahajima Island or spreading more widely on Hahajima Island, in addition to the measures to prevent its expansion to neighboring small islands. The future measures should be expressed not just by using the word "consider" but by using stronger words such as "eradicate" or "promote".

- The results of all the working groups by the subsidiary bodies of the Regional Liaison Committee other than the working group for the revision of the management plan, such as working groups for the management of pets and new alien species should also be reported to this Committee.
- As the working groups for regional issues are informal meetings, the official report of the results of each working group should be made in the Regional Liaison Committee.
- The progress report of the major projects for the management of the World Heritage should be more focused; for example, by asking members beforehand about which projects they are most interested in. In addition, if there are any new issues that have come up since the last meeting, such information should be shared with the members.
- The progress report of the major projects for the management of the World Heritage should be made easier to understand; for example, by quoting more quantitative data.
- If the management plan is to aim at 10 years ahead, it would be necessary to make a check sheet and set up quantitative targets to monitor the progress in addition to the establishment of long-term goals and short-term goals.
- In case that, because of the advancement of technology such as genetic analysis, errors are identified in the projects that were approved in the past, options such as project suspension or modification should be taken from the point of view of “adaptive management”.
- The measures against rats on residential islands should be implemented with the participation of residents.
- The issue of rats on the residential islands is of extreme interest to villagers. It is strongly recommended that a working group for measures against rats on the whole Ogasawara Islands in the next fiscal year.