

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage
Regional Liaison Committee
Summary of Results
FY2018

The results of the meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2018, which was held on 28 January 2019, are as follows:

1. The report of the major projects / future project plans related to the management of the World Heritage property

Morus boninensis-related projects

- On member pointed out that the local community of Ogasawara Village has a great interest in the conservation and planting of *Morus boninensis* and requested that opportunities should be provided in which the directions and goals of the related projects are explained to the local community.

Projects related to rare plants conservation

- Environments suitable for the growth of rare plants might exist outside their natural habitats, if large areas are not needed; it might be a good option to promote ex-situ conservation of rare plants, which might also contribute to reducing the risk of extinction due to drought etc.

Feral goat (*Capra hircus*)-related projects

- One member suggested that the specifications for capturing work should be more flexible, so that actual capturing can be carried out in response to the behavior of the feral goats, for example adjusting the time and place.
- One member requested that the number of feral goats captured every month should be publicized to share the achievement with the local communities of Ogasawara Village.

Rat-related projects

- Local communities of Ogasawara Village might cooperate a little more, if the management authorities take care of the treatment of the captured rats.
- The interest of the local communities of Ogasawara Islands might be enhanced if the progress of rat control projects is made visible, for example by publicizing the number of captured rats every month in the newsletter of Ogasawara Village.
- Once a year is not enough to capture rats in the residential area. It is necessary to have opportunities to fully discuss rat control measures that can be done by local community members, for example by organizing special meetings concerning rat control measures on inhabited islands or taking advantage of the Regional Liaison Committee meetings.
- One member requested that discussion of measures to address rats in farmland should

continue, in light of the fact that producers are bearing a certain cost for the eradication of rats in farmland although there are subsidies and some crops cannot be grown owing to an increasing number of rats.

- One member suggested that it would be important that the management authorities should set an example by carry out rat control measures at and around the office buildings and government employee houses.

Other matters

- One member expressed his/her intention to make efforts to prevent the further expansion of termites on Hahajima Island, so that they would not enter the villages, and requested that viable, effective measures should be developed, including the necessary budget.

2. The progress and results of discussion at the pet working group

- One member pointed out that pets are beneficial from the viewpoints of cultivation of aesthetic sentiments and companion animals and requested that care should be taken in the enforcement of the new ordinance concerning pets so that it would not be excessively restrictive.
- One member requested that a detailed explanation should be given to the local people of Ogasawara Village at briefing meetings about the past discussions at the pet working group etc.

3. Other matters to be reported

- One member pointed out that it would not be easy to revise a park plan once it is completed and requested that the actual situations should be analyzed very well in the preparation of the plan.
- One member, referring to the relationship between the Regional Liaison Committee and the Scientific Council, requested that related meetings should be organized in accordance with the usual procedure: opinions from local communities are heeded at the Regional Liaison Committee and then advice is sought at the Scientific Council about the project plan for the next fiscal year.

The arrangement for the meeting schedule is to be made early with a view to having meetings in July and December in the next fiscal year like the last fiscal year.

Members wish to have advice from the Scientific Council members are requested to contact the management authorities later and, if it is agreed at the Regional Liaison Committee meeting, the request is made to the Scientific Council to provide advice.

End