

Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council, FY2018 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 2018, which was held on 18 December 2018.

1. Progress in addressing the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

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

Measures against green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) (Anijima Island)

- The spread of green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*) in Area B is within the range of initial expectations. Human resources and financial resources should be re-allocated from the wide-area control activities, including Area A, which have been promoted so far to the defense at the Line-B fence.
- It is commendable that the Line-B fence has been effective in controlling the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*).
- Dispersible traps, which are expected to be more effective in capturing the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*), should be introduced as soon as possible, exploring the possibilities of using biodegradable materials through technology development.

Measures against Bischofia (*Bischofia javanica*)

- To enhance the effectiveness in eliminating Bischofia (*Bischofia javanica*) in Sekimon area, appropriate measures should be taken in consideration of the order of priority.

Measures against rats

- To ensure the implementation of the eradication of rats on uninhabited islands and the elimination of rats on the inhabited islands, while building consensus with local communities, the possibility of setting up a forum where cross-cutting issues can be discussed should be considered.

Measures against *Pheidole megacephala*

- It is highly commendable that the measures taken are yielding results.
- The implementation should be continued; the possibility of implementation at Futami Port should be considered, too.

(2) Request (b): Environmental impact assessment

- It is necessary to inform the local communities of Ogasawara Village that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has started the full enforcement of its manual for the integration of environmental consideration in its public works. In addition, the situations pertaining to the public works that are carried out by the national government

or Ogasawara Village should also be checked.

(3) Recommendations from (a) through (d)

- Ogasawara Islands' meteorological data and phenomena probably caused by drought should be archived together with the results of monitoring surveys concerning climate change, for example at the Ogasawara Islands Nature Information Center or on the website of Tokyo Metropolitan University, so that they can be used for the verification of effectiveness of various projects.
- Projects and activities related to ecotourism should be promoted also from the viewpoint of SDGs.
- Coordination should be made, so that the Scientific Council members can offer appropriate advice as advisors to the Ogasawara Ecotourism Association.

2. Individual efforts / projects

(1) Progress status in working groups which are subsidiary bodies of the Scientific Council (green anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*), land snails)

- Because small animals have several generations in one year and therefore genetic deterioration can progress fast, it is a matter of urgency to establish populations that can survive in the field.
- The reintroduction of *Mandarina* to Minamijima Island and its reinforcement in Tatsumijima Island should be carefully implemented, minimizing the impact on rare sea birds etc.
- In the implementation of the above, it is necessary to take into consideration not only the Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations of IUCN, but also on scientific knowledge that has been obtained on the Ogasawara Islands' ecosystems and land snails.

(2) Individual efforts / projects

- It is highly commendable that the ex-situ conservation of the Lycaenid butterfly (*Celastrina ogasawaraensis*) has been successful so far, thanks to cooperation from Tama Zoological Park. The possibilities of environmental restoration for in-situ conservation, and reinforcement and reintroduction onto Hahajima Island should be considered.
- With regard to the conservation of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzii*, rat control measures for the satellite islands of Hahajima Island need to be urgently discussed and implemented based on the conservation scenarios that are prepared by the members of the Scientific Council.
- The efforts to enact an ordinance concerning pets are highly commendable from the viewpoint of preventing the invasion of new alien species.

(3) Progress of projects based on the Action Plan

- The way that implementation progress is ranked should be reviewed, including the possibilities of more appropriate evaluation of individual actions.

3. Status of the working groups as subsidiary bodies of the Scientific Council

- The Council approves the establishment of the working group for the conservation of the heritage value on Hahajima Island and the working group for the development of forest rehabilitation methods using native trees on the Ogasawara Islands.

4. Other matters to be reported

- Dr. Isamu Okochi, the present chair of the Scientific Council, retires from the position as chair at the end of this fiscal year and will continue to serve as one of the members of the Council thereafter. Dr. Naoki Kachi has been elected as new chair from FY2019.

○ Other advice etc.

- The preparatory work for a report to the World Heritage Committee, which is expected to be submitted in 2020, should start in the next fiscal year.
- In light of the decision by the World Heritage Committee strongly recommending that the Scientific Council should become a member of the Ogasawara Ecotourism Association to strengthen it, it is necessary to prepare a summary of the content and background of the past discussion at the Association in addition to the future involvement of the Council.
- With regard to the conservation of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzii*, it is necessary to consider setting up a forum for discussion, for example by creating a new working group for protection and propagation or using an existing framework.
- It is desirable that local organizations which participate in the working group for the conservation of the heritage value on Hahajima Island have the same right to speak as Council members.
- The working group for the development of forest rehabilitation methods using native trees on the Ogasawara Islands is the only forum for discussion in the Scientific Council, as far as plants are concerned. In light of this, in case that timely judgement is needed, this working group should act as the authority.
- With regard to the establishment of a forum for discussion about *Morus boninensis*, a request should be made again to Dr. Shimizu, who proposed the idea, to consider how to proceed, including the possibility of using an existing framework. It is desirable that not only academic experts, but also local communities can collaborate as one.
- When the Regional Liaison Committee wishes to ask for advice from the Scientific Council, the Committee can do so by putting together related opinions at a Committee meeting and then submitting the request to the Council to get the response. If immediate response is possible, the response is provided by email. If it is needed to convene the Council members for discussion, the response is provided at a Scientific Council meeting.

End

