

FY2019 Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage
Regional Liaison Committee
Summary of Results

The results of the meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2019, which was held on 27 January 2020, are as follows:

1. Study framework for the conservation and management of World Natural Heritage
 - One member requested that the conceptual diagram in Material 1 should be carefully checked to ensure that it should be consistent with the diagram in the management plan and the nomination dossier.
 - The conceptual diagram would become more comprehensible, if subjects to be studied with a primary focus on nature are placed on the left and those to be studied with a primary focus on people's lives on the right, instead of structuring it based on relevance to the Outstanding Universal Value. It is probably due to lack of such clear distinction that issues such as harmonious coexistence are not clear in the diagram. That is also the reason why concrete goals have yet to be defined.
 - Industries and livelihoods are also relevant to the World Heritage property. One member suggested that such stakeholders should be included in the conceptual diagram.
 - One member requested for opportunities to discuss the management system and regulations for the World Heritage property.
2. Liaison and coordination matters
 - (1) The progress of discussion at the pet working group
 - The species that can be brought into the village other than dogs and cats are supposed to be specified in the enforcement regulations. However, the current procedure allows municipal government officials and the mayor to establish the enforcement regulations and run the council that review them without going through the village assembly. One member was of the opinion that this is insufficient to ensure the conservation of the natural environment.
 - One member requested that, in carrying out awareness-raising activities about this ordinance, it should be emphasized that it is part of the active efforts that have been made by Ogasawara Village based on its decision to allow local people to keep pets into the future, independently of the opinions of IUCN and that the use of the White List is a rare and pioneering example in Japan.
 - One member reported that, although it would not be possible to expand the scope of this ordinance to cover livestock and so forth, there was a strong request from the working group members to review regulations related to livestock, once this ordinance has been enacted.
 - (2) Progress of projects regarding conservation and management of the heritage value

<Revision of the conservation and management plan>

- One member expressed his/her view that the conservation and management plan was revised without building consensus with local residents this time.
- One member requested that it should be clearly explained that the heritage property is collaboratively managed in consideration not only of the responsibilities of applicable laws but also of the responsibilities as the management authorities.

<Measures against feral goats (*Capra hircus*) relating to vegetation conservation and recovery of Chichijima Island>

- One member requested that, when the implementation plan for the elimination of invasive alien plants is revised, attention should be given to consistency with the management plan of the World Natural Heritage property based on the understanding of the philosophy of collaboration in the management of the heritage property.

<Measures against rats on satellite islands>

- One member pointed out that low-density management practically means using rat poison in certain areas for a long period and that the method might not have been agreed to explicitly by local communities of those areas. He/she requested that the degree of risk posed by the method currently in use and also new techniques should be thoroughly examined and that future directions should be analyzed based on that.

- (3) Progress with projects regarding the conservation of the natural environment of the heritage property and coexistence with nature etc.

<Lycaenid butterfly (*Celastrina ogasawaraensis*) conservation measures>

- Although it has been reported that the eradication of the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) has been achieved in the Shin-yuhigaoka Observation Platform, it should be noted that the total area of Hahajima Island is approximately 250 ha, whereas that of the Shin-yuhigaoka Observation Platform is only 2 ha. Therefore, it would not be possible to say that the achievement of eradication in the Shin-yuhigaoka Observation Platform is sufficient for the purpose of eradicating the green anole on Hahajima Island.

<Measures against rats on inhabited islands>

- Although the local government lends trap cages to local people, the number of people who actually use them appears to be very small. It is probably because it is not easy to kill the captured rats and then dispose of the dead rats. For example, it might be a good idea to set up a rat control facility and terminate captured rats, using carbon dioxide. It would not be so difficult to find a burial site for the terminated rats, if the management authorities make necessary arrangements in coordination; it would not cost much, either. One member requested that this idea should be implemented.

3. Reports from the relevant organizations

(1) Report from management authorities

<How the council should be in the future>

- Since the inscription on the World Heritage List, typhoons of the largest scales have hit the islands, and it is said that *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi* might be at the risk of local

extinction and Lycaenid butterfly (*Celastrina ogasawaraensis*) in danger of wild extinction. One member requested that the current status should be evaluated and clearly explained.

- One member pointed out that the meetings of the Regional Liaison Committee have become merely opportunities for project reports and requested that they should be improved.
- One member suggested that workshops should be convened for each taxonomic group, which could meet for one day or two days for discussion with the participation of members from the Regional Liaison Committee.
- One member requested that the Regional Liaison Committee should have ad hoc meetings to study the laws and regulations for the protection of World Heritage.

(2) Matters reported from participating organizations

- Not applicable.

4. Matters on which advice is solicited from the Scientific Council

<Concerning matters on which advice is solicited from the Scientific Council>

- The Regional Liaison Committee requested that the Scientific Council should be informed that the members of the committee regrets that the meetings of the Scientific Council end up with mere project reports by the local governments.

5. Other matters

- It is a big disadvantage that management authorities work in silos for heritage management. Laws and/or ordinances for World Heritage management will be necessary in the future.
- More preparatory work would be needed before meetings, for example by distributing a document of one or two pages in which the topics of discussion are summarized and collecting opinions from the participating organizations beforehand. To make fruitful discussions at the meetings, the secretariat should sort out in advance the matters that only need to be read and those that need to be discussed. The Regional Liaison Committee plays a very important role in reflecting the opinions of local communities in the conservation and management of the World Heritage value. It is a problem that opinions have not been expressed sufficiently at this committee.
- It might be good to have local informal gatherings so that local people can more freely exchange opinions and forward the results of discussion at these gatherings to the Regional Liaison Committee.

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