

FY2019 Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council Summary of Results (Advice from the Scientific Council)

The following advice was given to the management authorities at the meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council for the Fiscal Year 2019, which was held on 23 December 2019.

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

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

- Preventive measures against the introduction and expansion of new invasive alien species should continue to be discussed.
*Individual matters are described in 2 (2).

(2) Request (b): Environmental impact assessment

- The Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage Convention were revised and the items regarding environmental impact assessment were added. An air route plan should be discussed, including the timing of notification.

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

- Actions to address climate change should be discussed, including studies of the impacts of drought and large-scale typhoons and recovery works as a series of related responses.

2. Individual efforts / projects

(1) Progress status of the working groups which are subsidiary bodies of the Scientific Council

- With regard to the method of forest rehabilitation using native trees, the policies for the implementation of tree planting that are currently discussed should also be checked and closely examined by the management authorities.

(2) Individual efforts / projects

<Conservation of land snails>

- With regard to measures against rats for conservation of land snails on Anijima Island, it should be explored how to operationalize the discussion forum effectively.

<Conservation of Bonin flying fox (*Pteropus pselaphon*)>

- Since the population of the Bonin flying fox is rapidly increasing on Hahajima Island, efforts should be continued to prevent serious damage to agriculture.

<Conservation of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi*>

- The population of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi* has decreased to critical condition. Management authorities should collaboratively take immediate actions, including the possibility of eradication of rats on the satellite islands of Hahajima Island.

<Measures against rats>

- Measures against rats are a difficult problem that cannot be concluded through brief discussion. Knowledge accumulated by each management authority and information from both Japan and other countries should be collected, analyzed, and utilized.

(3) Progress of projects based on the Action Plan

(There was no specific advice from the Scientific Council in response to the report from the management authorities.)

3. Other matters to be reported

- With regard to the reorganization of the working group for measures against the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*), care should be taken to ensure that it should maintain the function of making scientific assessments from the perspectives not only of insects but also of the whole ecosystem. With regard to the recovery from typhoon damage, the current situation should be assessed and reviewed, without excluding the possibility of revision.
- An important point about Nishinoshima Island is the fact that the formation of the continental crust (criterion (viii)) is actually occurring. The process should be monitored and the value should be conserved. Realistic ways of its management should be discussed, while efforts are made to gain local people's understanding.
- Information should be shared with the Scientific Council of Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island, which has been nominated for World Heritage List inscription, because there are many common issues.

○ Other advice and opinions are as follows:

- It is desirable to show the progress of ecotourism-related activities from the viewpoint of SDGs as well. One member suggested holding study meetings and/or collecting information for that purpose.
- With regard to species designated under the Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, information such as the current status, threats, and implementation status of monitoring, should be sorted out for each species and utilized for future conservation measures etc.
- The expanding distribution of the beggar tick (*Bidens frondosa*) on Anijima Island is caused by people who enter the area for investigation and research purposes. The expansion can be prevented by plucking them as soon as they are spotted. The management authorities should advise people and organizations concerned to do so.
- Measures to address the risk of invasive alien ants entering on cargo should be discussed.
- With regard to public works that affect the habitats of the Ogasawara fiddler crab (*Paraleptuca boninensis*), conservation measures should be discussed.

End