

FY2020 Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage
Regional Liaison Committee
Summary of Results

The results of the first meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Regional Liaison Committee for the Fiscal Year 2020, which was held on 9 October 2020, are as follows:

- (1) How to proceed with the Regional Liaison Committee in the future
 - One member requested that the Regional Liaison Committee be a place for building consensus, where specific issues such as rats on inhabited islands are also discussed.
 - One member expressed his/her view that the Regional Liaison Committee has not been a place for policymaking and should not be one in the future, too.
 - One member strongly supported having an informal meeting before the Regional Liaison Committee.
 - One member pointed out that the position of the Regional Liaison Committee has become obscure. This Committee should continue to play a role in ensuring coordination among various heritage-related projects, breaking down silos in their implementation.
 - One member requested that the role of the Regional Liaison Committee be discussed again at the next meeting, after checking the description in the management plan.
 - One member suggested that it would be possible to add sentences such as “efforts shall be made so that the contents of discussion at the Regional Liaison Committee are fully reflected in the projects of management authorities,” although it might be difficult to amend the TOR of the Committee.

- (2) Main efforts related to world heritage management
 - 1) Progress of projects regarding conservation and management of the heritage value
 - Regarding feral goats on Chichijima Island, one member pointed out that the measures that have been taken so far appear to be too weak or too narrow to accomplish eradication. It will require more robust efforts, in the same spirit as when measures were taken to eradicate feral goats on Anijima and Ototojima Islands.
 - One member pointed out that rat control measures are essential for the conservation of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzii* and requested that measures against rats be taken on satellite islands of Hahajima Island, too.
 - One member pointed out that measures against rats on inhabited islands are closely linked to the daily lives of local communities and requested that a mechanism be put in place to enable groups participating in the implementation of those measures to join the discussions.

 - 2) Progress of projects regarding the conservation of the natural environment of the heritage property and coexistence with nature etc.
 - With regard to various projects for conservation of rare species, one member pointed out that their achievements are hardly visible to local communities. They also want to take part in decision-making, instead of leaving everything to the government, because it is

irreparable if any important animal or plant goes extinct from the island, as was the case with *Celastrina ogasawaraensis*.

- One member pointed out that, in the past, many individuals of *Celastrina ogasawaraensis* were seen on Ototojima Island and proposed that a survey be conducted by a team of 10 people.
- With regard to efforts for *Celastrina ogasawaraensis*, one member expressed his/her view that the attitude of the government lacks seriousness and speed and that no sense of crisis is shared in preventing extinction. While it is important to check and verify the on-going measures, conservation measures for *Celastrina ogasawaraensis* should be strengthened as the first priority.

(3) Other matters to be reported

- Not applicable.

End