

FY2020 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 2020, which was held on 22 December 2020.

(1) Progress in addressing the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

- No questions or advice.

(2) Discussions on matters to be reported

< 1. What measures are required to address impacts of climate change, as was encouraged by the World Heritage Committee? >

- To address climate change, adaptation measures are also important. It is not necessarily required to start new projects or research. Instead, some of the existing measures such as those for invasive alien species serve as adaptation measures. It is also important to carry out continuous monitoring.

< 2. Are there any issues that require further scientific discussion, regarding prevention of introduction and expansion of new invasive alien species? >

- The possibilities of the introduction of new invasive alien species should be identified in a comprehensive manner. In collaboration with the relevant local organizations, roles and actions that each organization should play and take in case of new invasive alien species introduction should be simulated.

< 3. Appropriate place to discuss measures against invasive alien rats >

- It is important to develop cross-cutting measures and technology. A forum for discussion cutting across different sectors should be set up.
- Rats affect all species, including plants, birds and land snails, and their control measures should be taken in various fields such as public health, agriculture and natural environment. It is necessary to ensure thorough discussion, for example, by setting up a forum for comprehensive discussions to deal with issues that go beyond individual working groups as well as technology development.
- A comprehensive strategy that covers both inhabited and uninhabited islands should be developed, clarifying measures to be taken in each place and actions that can be taken by residents and illustrating how various measures are related to the World Heritage property.
- When a new forum for discussion is set up, past discussions and achievements should be compiled and shared.
- Information regarding technologies to control rats should be shared across projects, as well as with the Scientific Council and the Regional Liaison Committee.

< 4. How to proceed with discussions on measures against *Bipalium vagum* on Hahajima

Island at the land snails conservation working group >

- Because it is impossible to eliminate *Bipalium vagum* with the current technology, efforts should be focused on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation of land snails and prevention of expansion of *Bipalium vagum* to the satellite islands.

< 6. Is there any possibility of improving the efficiency of the heritage management system, as reported at the Regional Liaison Committee? >

- Regarding the legal system for heritage management, there are not many countries that have a single, comprehensive legal system, such as a heritage management act. There is no problem with the existing legal system of Japan as a legal framework for heritage management. However, efforts should be made to sort out and illustrate the outlines of individual laws and regulations, the scope of responsibilities and roles of management authorities, budgets, etc.

< Other matters: Discussion and report on air routes >

- In future discussions, measures that will contribute to preventing the introduction of new invasive alien species should be specified.
- Discussions should be made and measures should be taken to respond to the requests of the World Heritage Committee.

< Other matters: Conservation of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi* >

- The breeding season of *Carduelis sinica kittlitzi* is April and May. Measures that are taken during the breeding season is the most important. It is necessary to ensure that resources are available to take measures in the next fiscal year, too.
- Once the project plan for protection and breeding has been developed, it is necessary to set up a committee and implement measures promptly.

< Other matters: Measures against the green anole (*Anolis carolinensis*) on Anijima Island >

- Measures should be discussed, not limited to the existing methods, but including such measures as the early development of an overarching roadmap that covers individual plans, installation of a fence at Mt. Omaruyama, and ex-situ conservation of insects that are endemic to Anijima Island.

< Other matters: Implementation of the planting method >

- There were no objections to the Operational Guidelines Concerning Tree Planting Method, which had been prepared by a subsidiary working group.

< Other matters: Nishinoshima Island >

- Monitoring should be carried out and scenarios of responsive measures should be discussed in order to prevent the introduction of invasive alien plants via seabirds.

End