

FY2022 Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council Summary of Results (Advice from the Scientific Council)

The following is advice given to the management authorities at the 2nd meeting of the Ogasawara Islands World Natural Heritage Scientific Council for the Fiscal Year 2021, which was held on December 26, 2022.

(1) Report on heritage management

1) Progress on undertaking the requests made by the World Heritage Committee

The Scientific Council acknowledged the management authorities' report, which included undertaking the requests made by the World Heritage Committee. In addition, advice in response to the World Heritage Committee's requests is as follows:

[Request a: Efforts to address invasive alien species]

- Measures against alien species, which have not been introduced to the islands, should not focus on specific species, but rather on all alien species to prevent their introduction. Thus, it is important to control all invasion routes (pathway control), while keeping our current position of assessing the possible invading species groups. Impact of highly invasive alien species on the islands would be irreversible, thus, our effort on border control on Hahajima Island as well as Chichijima Island should be increased with a sense of urgency.

2) Advice in response to the report given by the Scientific Council's working groups.

The Scientific Council acknowledged plans and action status reported by each working group. Advice given in regard to the reports from each working group is as follows:

<Anole Working Group >

- In accordance with the working group's plan to install enclosure fences at Mt. Omaruyama, the group should speed up maintenance of the fences and construct a road map for 2023–2028.

< Land Snail Working Group >

- The black rat population recovered at alarming speed on Anijima Island, and thus immediate action should be taken to address the situation while taking measures to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.
- Continue the research on measures against *Bipalium vagum* on Hahajima Island.
- Secure additional funds and staff to take swift action against *Macrochlamys* on Hahajima Island.

<Planting Working Group>

- Inform the public about the benefit of warm-water soaking (*hahanoyu*) of farm seedlings with soil, and resolve various obstacles, as outlined by the group.
- As continued discussion on the issues of Hahajima Island is necessary, the group should exchange opinions with the council members and the regional liaison committees to determine the group's approach for the coming fiscal years.

< Committee on Forest Restoration Using Native Trees on Ogasawara Islands >

- The management authorities, etc. should appropriately take over ongoing studies and examinations after closing down the committee, as outlined by the committee.
- For conservation of *Morus boninensis*, more forethought and coordination should come according to “Development of Basic Information and a Future Plan with the *Morus boninensis* Conservation Scheme.”

(2) Other

- Conservation efforts on Ogasawara greenfinch on Hahajima Island should continue with close monitoring.
- Continue to examine establishment of a base station on Hahajima Island.
- The Scientific Council will also promote reassessment of new heritage values of the islands. The management authorities and the Scientific Council will cooperate to discuss the matter with more research and investigation.

End