Nomination of

Amami-Oshima Island
Tokunoshima Island
The Northern Part of Okinawa Island, and
Iriomote Island

for Inscription on the World Heritage List

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
January 2017
Nomination of Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island for inscription on the World Heritage List

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GLOSSARY

• Terms used to indicate localities in this document:
  1) Nominated property:
     ➢ The 24 component parts in four regions included in this serial nomination, i.e. nominated areas on Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island.
  2) The four regions containing the nominated property:
     ➢ The whole area of Amami-Oshima, Tokunoshima, Iriomote Islands, and three Yambaru villages in the northern part of Okinawa Island. Each region includes the nominated areas, buffer zones and neighboring areas.
     ➢ “Three Yambaru villages” means the area comprising Kunigami Village, Ogimi Village, and Higashi Village in the northern part of Okinawa Island. Yambaru means the wide forest area in mountains in Okinawa language.
  3) The four islands containing the nominated property:
     ➢ The whole area of Amami-Oshima, Tokunoshima, Okinawa, and Iriomote Islands including the nominated areas, buffer zones, and neighboring areas.

• Names and classification of islands used in this document are shown in a figure on the next page.
• Endemic species in this document refers to a species, whose geographic distribution is confined to Central and/or South Ryukyus unless otherwise specified.
• Relict endemic species refers to an endemic species, whose extant sister lineage (i.e., group of phylogenetically closest relatives) does not occur in the vicinity of the Ryukyu Chain.
• New endemic species refers to an endemic species, whose extant sister lineage (i.e., group of phylogenetically closest relatives) occurs in the vicinity of the Ryukyu Chain.
• Globally threatened species indicate the species listed as Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) or Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List.
  ➢ The assessment of IUCN Red List is basically at the species level, but some are assessed at the subspecies level.
• Japanese threatened species indicate the species listed as CR, EN or VU on the Red List of Japan produced by the Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ-Red List).
  ➢ The assessment of MOEJ-Red List is usually at the subspecies level. Only plants are assessed at the subspecies and variety levels.
Figure: Names and classification of islands used in scientific fields, especially biology (based on Toyama 2014). Red letters indicate the islands in which the nominated property is included.

1. The marine area between Yonaguni Island and Taiwan is not explicitly named and is described as “between Taiwan and Yonaguni Island” by Geospatial Information Authority of Japan and Japan Coast Guard. In this document, the area is called “Yonaguni Strait” for descriptive purposes as it appears repeatedly.
Executive Summary

State Party
Japan

State, Province or Region
Kagoshima Prefecture and Okinawa Prefecture

Name of Property
Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island

Geographical Coordinates to the Nearest Second

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name of the component parts</th>
<th>Region/District</th>
<th>Coordinates of the central point</th>
<th>Area of nominated component of the property (ha)</th>
<th>Area of the buffer zone (ha)</th>
<th>Map No. (Appendix 5-1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island a</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 16′ 44.969″ E129° 22′ 41.886″</td>
<td>9,299</td>
<td>14,468</td>
<td>AMA_2, AMA_3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island b</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 12′ 26.893″ E129° 25′ 35.112″</td>
<td>1,752</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMA_3</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island c</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 16′ 40.687″ E129° 25′ 26.504″</td>
<td>164</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMA_3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island d</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 15′ 20.993″ E129° 22′ 49.542″</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>14,468</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island e</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 11′ 27.022″ E129° 23′ 35.690″</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMA_3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island f</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 16′ 53.282″ E129° 24′ 54.518″</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island g</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 15′ 35.162″ E129° 23′ 42.903″</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island h</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 14′ 11.265″ E129° 24′ 32.565″</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Amami-Oshima Island i</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N28° 13′ 18.441″ E129° 26′ 08.388″</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>AMA_3</td>
</tr>
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Amami-Oshima Island area (ha) 11,544 14,468

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name of the component parts</th>
<th>Region/District</th>
<th>Coordinates of the central point</th>
<th>Area of nominated component of the property (ha)</th>
<th>Area of the buffer zone (ha)</th>
<th>Map No. (Appendix 5-1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tokunoshima Island 1</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N27° 45′ 48.136″ E129° 58′ 01.962″</td>
<td>1,643</td>
<td>1,853</td>
<td>TOK_2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tokunoshima Island 2</td>
<td>Kagoshima Prefecture</td>
<td>N27° 51′ 56.055″ E129° 55′ 33.394″</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>TOK_1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

 Tokunoshima Island area (ha) 2,434 2,852

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Name of the component parts</th>
<th>Region/District</th>
<th>Coordinates of the central point</th>
<th>Area of nominated component of the property (ha)</th>
<th>Area of the buffer zone (ha)</th>
<th>Map No. (Appendix 5-1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Northern part of Okinawa Island 1-a</td>
<td>Okinawa Prefecture</td>
<td>N26° 43′ 29.212″ E128° 13′ 12.582″</td>
<td>4,219</td>
<td>2,385</td>
<td>NPO_2, NPO_4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Northern part of Okinawa Island 1-b</td>
<td>Okinawa Prefecture</td>
<td>N26° 39′ 03.653″ E128° 11′ 41.015″</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td>NPO_4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Northern part of Okinawa Island 1-c</td>
<td>Okinawa Prefecture</td>
<td>N26° 39′ 19.626″ E128° 11′ 29.668″</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>NPO_4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Textual Description of the Boundaries

The nominated property is part of the Ryukyu Chain scattered in an arc, about 1,200 km long, lying between the south end of Kyushu of the Japanese Archipelago and Taiwan. It is a serial property consisting of four islands: Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Okinawa Island (in the Central Ryukyus), and Iriomote Island (in the South Ryukyus).

The nominated property which demonstrates Outstanding Universal Value for inscription on the World Heritage List is to be limited, in light of scientific examination, only to these four islands.

The nominated property is part of the areas strictly protected by the Special Protection Zone and the Class I Special Zone in the Amami Gunto National Park, Yambaru National Park, and Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park as well as the Preservation Zone in the Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve and Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve (for the zoning system of protected areas, see Tables 5-2-1 to 5-2-4, 5-3, and 5-4).

The buffer zones are mainly parts of the areas protected by the Class II Special Zone in the above national parks as well as the Conservation and Utilization Zone of the above Forest Ecosystem Reserves.
Regional classification of the Ryukyu Chain including the nominated property

Subtropical rainforest (Photo: MOEJ)
Maps of the Nominated Property, Showing Boundaries and Buffer Zone

Boundary of the nominated property (Amami-Oshima Island)
Boundary of the nominated property (Tokunoshima Island)
Boundary of the nominated property (Northern part of Okinawa Island)
Boundary of the nominated property (Iriomote Island)
Boundaries of 1:5000 topographical maps including the nominated property and buffer zones

(Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan)

Red letters indicate the map numbers and names in which the nominated property is included.
AMA_1 Kominato (Amami-Oshima Island)
AMA_3  Yuwan (Amami-Oshima Island)
AMA_4  Koniya (Amami-Oshima Island)
TOK_1  San (Tokunoshima Island)
TOK_2  Kametsu (Tokunoshima Island)
NPO_1  Oku (Northern part of Okinawa Island)
NPO_2  Hentona (Northern part of Okinawa Island)
NPO_3 Nakasone (Northern part of Okinawa Island)
Kunigami-Taira (Northern part of Okinawa Island)
IRI_1 North-eastern part of Iriomotejima (Iriomote Island)
IRI_2  South-eastern part of Iriomotejima (Iriomote Island)
IRI_3 Western part of Iriomotejima (Iriomote Island)
Criteria Under Which Property Is Nominated

Criterion (ix): to be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.

Criterion (x): to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of Outstanding Universal Value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Draft Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

a) Brief synthesis

Belonging to the Ryukyu Chain located at the south end of the Japanese Archipelago, the nominated property has a land area of 37,946 ha comprising of four regions: Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island and the northern part of Okinawa Island in the Central Ryukyus; and Iriomote Island in the South Ryukyus. Influenced by the Kuroshio Current and subtropical high-pressure, the nominated property is in warm, humid subtropical climate and covered mainly with evergreen broadleaved rainforests.

The Ryukyu Chain is believed to have been formed through the formation and expansion of the Okinawa Trough and associated tectonic uplift and subsidence caused by subduction of the Philippine Sea plate beneath the Eurasian plate that had occurred since the middle Miocene of the Neogene. The Ryukyu Chain was then divided into the North Ryukyus, the Central Ryukyus and the South Ryukyus by deep straits lying between islands. Then since the early Pleistocene of the Quaternary, sea-level changes repeated the process of separation and unification of neighboring islands.

This geological history created opportunities for speciation and endemism for non-flying terrestrial creatures in the Central and South Ryukyus. Also, the Central and South Ryukyus have differences in their patterns of speciation and endemism in the terrestrial biota because of differences in the distance from the continent and the timing of separation. The nominated property comprises representative four regions of the Central and South Ryukyus which are home to particularly large number of endemic species and subspecies of various organisms. By examining them collectively, we can understand the ongoing processes of speciation and diversification of evolutionary lineages that reflect the geological history of the entire Ryukyu Chain.

The nominated property is also an irreplaceable habitat for at least 1,808 vascular plant species, 740 terrestrial and freshwater vertebrate species, 6,148 insect species, 47 freshwater decapod species, and 88 threatened species listed on the IUCN Red List.

As such, the nominated property is a good example of the ongoing process of speciation and endemism that reflects its formative history as a continental island involving long-period isolation. It also has an invaluable natural environment, including habitats for various endemic species and threatened species of international
b) Justification for criteria

Criterion (ix)
As part of the Eurasian Continent, the Central and South Ryukyus containing the nominated property used to share the same continental terrestrial biota. Thereafter, in the process of separation from the continent driven by the formation of the Okinawa Trough and two deep straits and in the repeated process of separation and unification of islands affected by sea-level changes, the nominated property has given rise to speciation and endemism in various evolutionary lineages.

In the Central Ryukyus, which were separated from the continent around the late Miocene of the Neogene, many relict endemic species, whose related species cannot be found in the neighboring regions, still survive on the islands. The South Ryukyus, which separated from Taiwan and the continent during the Pliocene, have endemic species and subspecies with their related species distributed in Taiwan and the continent. Those processes are particularly evident in plants and non-flying terrestrial vertebrates that cannot easily cross the ocean gaps. Various patterns of endemism and each stage of speciation on the continental islands can be seen in the area. The nominated property comprises four regions that characterize the Central and South Ryukyus, and is an outstanding example clearly representing distinctive, ongoing processes of speciation and diversification of evolutionary lineages on the continental islands that reflect the geological history of the entire Ryukyu Chain. It can be deemed as one of the best natural laboratory in the world for studying the relation of the formation history of continental islands and biological evolution processes.

Criterion (x)
The nominated property is a crucial area from the viewpoint of biodiversity conservation, as it constitutes an irreplaceable habitat for threatened and endemic species that are of global importance. There are 88 threatened species listed on the IUCN Red List, and 70 of these are endemic to Central and South Ryukyus. Reflecting its geological history, the nominated property shows diverse examples of relict and new endemic species. Among others, five mammal species, three bird species, and three amphibian species have been identified as Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered (EDGE) species.

One example of the EDGE species is the Amami rabbit (*Pentalagus furnessi*) in Amami-Oshima Island and Tokunoshima Island, it comprises a genus by itself with no other related species. The Okinawa rail (*Gallirallus okinawae*) in the northern part of Okinawa Island is one of the non-flying species of the rail family on an island, which is known to be prone to extinction. *Tokudaia* is an endemic genus of spiny rats, with three species endemic to each of the three regions in the Central Ryukyus. Iriomote cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis iriomotensis*) only inhabits Iriomote Island, the world’s smallest island inhabited by wildcats.

Further, the nominated property has high levels of diversity within its vascular plants and insects. On each of the four regions containing the nominated property, there are 950 to 1,300 species of vascular plants; these represent about 20% of threatened vascular plant species of Japan. There are also more than 1,000 to 3,000 insect species;
these represent about 10% of the threatened insect species in Japan.

c) Statement of integrity

The nominated property includes Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, and the northern part of Okinawa Island in the Central Ryukyus; and Iriomote Island in the South Ryukyus. It contains about 90% of the endemic and threatened species in Central and South Ryukyus and their important habitats, and thus includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value as serial World Heritage islands. All the components of the property are complementary to one another and if any of the four regions were to be omitted, it would be impossible to understand the whole picture of the ongoing evolutionary and ecological processes of the Ryukyu Chain or conserve the biodiversity of the area.

Also, the nominated property consists of islands that are large in comparison with other islands in the Central and South Ryukyus, and subtropical rainforests exist there in large clusters. The property contains diverse habitat environments, including different geologies, cloud belts around the summit areas, mountains and hills involving complex microtopographies and hydrological systems, and swamps. It has adequate buffer zones. As such, it is of sufficient size and sound environmental conditions to ensure the complete representation and long-term conservation of its Outstanding Universal Values.

While there is some impact from alien species, traffic accidents involving wild animals, and illegal collection of wild species, the risks are prevented or mitigated through coordinated efforts by relevant administrative organs (Ministry of the Environment, Forestry Agency, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Kagoshima Prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture, and local municipalities) and civilian organizations.

d) Statement of authenticity

Not applicable because this nomination does not claim cultural values.

e) Requirements for protection and management

The nominated property is designated as Special Protection Zone or Class I Special Zone of National Park; or Presearvation Zones of Forest Ecosystem Reserve. In addition, it is designated as National Wildlife Protection Area or Natural Monument (see Chapter 5). These are systems for protecting the excellent natural environment of Japan, regulating development projects in a strict legal manner. By these designations, the nominated property is ensured of long-term appropriate protection. Most parts of the nominated property are national or municipal lands owned and managed by national or local governments.

The four islands containing the nominated property are inhabited by people, and the places for residents’ lives and industrial activities are close to habitats for endemic species and rare species. To carefully protect the property and enable the coexistence with people’s livelihoods, buffer zones were set up mainly in Class II Special Zone of the National Park or Conservation and Utilization Zone of the Forest Ecosystem Reserve, adjacent to the nominated property.

In order to facilitate the multi-layered management and protection of protected areas and designated species, the
relevant administrative organs have established the “Regional Liaison Committee” and prepared the “Comprehensive Management Plan” describing the management policy common in the four regions. In addition, four sub-local meetings have been set up under the Regional Liaison Committee, and they formulate regional action plans to effectively carry out the conservation and management of each region containing the nominated property through collaboration and cooperation with the local stakeholders. The “Scientific Committee” comprised of academic experts and its subsidiary “Local Working Groups” have been established to provide scientific advice and promote adaptive conservation and management in light of scientific knowledge and insight.

In addition, major endemic threatened species in the nominated property such as the Amami rabbit, Okinwana rail, and Iriomote cat are legally protected by designation of National Endangered Species and Natural Monuments. Monitoring of these species will be continued as part of protection and recovery program of the National Endangered Species and/or the mongoose control program.
Name and Contact Information of Official Local Institution/Agency

Amami Ranger Office for Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment
Address: 551 Koshinohata, Ongachi, Yamato Village, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-3104
TEL: +81-997-55-8620  FAX: +81-997-55-8621

Tokunoshima Ranger Office for Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment
Address: Amagi Town Office, 2691-1 Hetono, Amagi Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 891-7612

Yambaru Ranger Office for Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment
Address: 263-1 Hiji, Kunigami Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture 905-1413
TEL: +81-980-50-1025  FAX: +81-980-50-1026

Iriomote Ranger Office for Nature Conservation, Ministry of the Environment
Address: Komi, Taketomi Town, Yaeyama County, Okinawa Prefecture 907-1432
TEL: +81-980-84-7130  FAX: +81-980-85-5582

Kagoshima District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 12-1 Hama-machi, Kagoshima City, Kagoshima Prefecture 892-0812

Okinawa District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: Tsubogawa Building, 3-2-6 Tsubogawa, Naha City, Okinawa Prefecture 900-0025
TEL: +81-98-918-0210  FAX: +81-98-918-0211

Naze Forest Office, Kagoshima District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 1-17 Naze Manatsu-machi, Amami City, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-0015
TEL: +81-997-52-4531  FAX: +81-997-52-4531

Tokunoshima Forest Office, Kagoshima District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 7111-2 Kametsu, Tokunoshima Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 891-7101
TEL: +81-997-82-0027  FAX: +81-997-82-0027

Takae Forest Office, Okinawa District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 466-1 Takae, Higashi Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture 905-1201
TEL: +81-980-43-2123  FAX: +81-980-43-2123

Sonai Forest Office, Okinawa District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 689 Iriomote, Taketomi Town, Yaeyama County, Okinawa Prefecture 907-1542

Ohara Forest Office, Okinawa District Forest Office, Kyushu Regional Forest Office, Forestry Agency
Address: 201 Haemi, Taketomi Town, Yaeyama County, Okinawa Prefecture 907-1434

Oshima Branch Office, Kagoshima Prefecture
Address: 17-3 Naze Nagata-cho, Amami City, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-8501
Yaeyama Regional Public Works Office, Okinawa Prefecture
Address: Yaeyama Godochosha, 438-1 Maesato, Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture 907-0002
TEL: +81-980-82-2217 FAX: +81-980-82-1954

Amami City
Address: 25-8 Naze Saiwai-cho, Amami City, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-8555
TEL: +81-997-52-1111 FAX: +81-997-52-1354

Yamato Village
Address: 100 Yamatohama, Yamato Village, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-3192
TEL: +81-997-57-2111 FAX: +81-997-57-2161

Uken Village
Address: 915 Yuwan, Uken Village, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-3392

Setouchi Town
Address: 23 Koniya-Funatsu, Setouchi Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-1592
TEL: +81-997-72-1111 FAX: +81-997-72-1120

Tatsugo Town
Address: 110 Ura, Tatsugo Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 894-0192

Tokunoshima Town
Address: 7203 Kametsu, Tokunoshima Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 891-7101
TEL: +81-997-82-1111 FAX: +81-997-82-1101

Amagi Town
Address: 2691-1 Hetono, Amagi Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 891-7612

Isen Town
Address: 1842 Isen, Isen Town, Oshima County, Kagoshima Prefecture 891-8201
TEL: +81-997-86-3111 FAX: +81-997-86-2301

Kunigami Village
Address: 121 Hentona, Kunigami Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture 905-1495
TEL: +81-980-41-2101 FAX: +81-980-41-5910

Ogimi Village
Address: 157 Oganeku, Ogimi Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture 905-1392
TEL: +81-980-44-3001 FAX: +81-980-44-3139

Higashi Village
Address: 804 Taira, Higashi Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture 905-1292
TEL: +81-980-43-2201 FAX: +81-980-43-2457

Taketomi Town
Address: 11-1 Misaki-cho, Ishigaki City, Okinawa Prefecture 907-8503
TEL: +81-980-82-6191 FAX: +81-980-82-6199