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Protection and Management of the Property

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Amami rabbit (*Pentalagus furnessi*), Amami-Oshima Island

5. Protection and Management of the Property

5.a. Ownership

Table 5-1 shows the percentages of land ownership in the four component clusters in the nominated property.

Table 5-1: Land ownership of four regions containing the nominated property

	Area of the nominated property by island (with area of the buffer zone in the lower cell)	National land	Prefectural land, municipal land	Private land, etc. (including land with unknown ownership)
Amami-Oshima Island	11,544ha	27% (3,080 ha)	24% (2,766ha)	49% (5,698ha)
	14,468ha	5% (699ha)	32% (4,581ha)	64% (9,188ha)
Tokunoshima Island	2,434ha	95.4% (2,322ha)	0.4% (10ha)	4.2% (102ha)
	2,852ha	29% (820ha)	9% (252ha)	62% (1,780ha)
Northern part of Okinawa Island	5,133ha	20% (1,010ha)	73% (3,753ha)	7% (370ha)
	3,268ha	12% (402ha)	52% (1,697ha)	36% (1,169ha)
Iriomote Island	18,835ha	95.3% (17,946ha)	0.1% (23ha)	4.6% (866ha)
	5,542ha	87% (4,824ha)	4% (204ha)	9% (514ha)
Total	37,946ha	64% (24,359ha)	17% (6,552ha)	19% (7,036ha)
	26,130ha	26% (6,745ha)	26% (6,734ha)	48% (12,651ha)

(Some total figures do not match the sum totals due to the rounding off of fractions.)

In terms of the entirety of the nominated property, the percentage of national land is 64% for the nominated property and 24% for the buffer zones. All types of public land put together account for 81% of the nominated property and 50% of the buffer zones. The contact information of the main landowners—the Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, Kagoshima Prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture, and local municipalities—is shown in Chapter 8.

5.b. Protective Designation

The nominated property is strictly protected pursuant to domestic laws and systems with designations that include: National Park Special Protection Zone; National Park Class I Special Zone; Forest Ecosystem Reserve Preservation Zone; National Wildlife Protection Area and; National Natural Monument.

The buffer zones are adjacent to the nominated property and use and development is regulated within National Park Class II Special Zone, Forest Ecosystem Reserve Conservation and Utilization Zone, or other protected areas. Tables 5-2-1 to 5-2-4 show details of the protected areas, such as the names of the respective protected areas, designation years, and legal foundations (see Appendices 3 and 4 for more detailed information).

Figures 5-1-1 to 5-1-13 show maps depicting the boundaries of each protected area.

Table 5-2-1: Designation details for protected areas in the nominated property (Amami-Oshima Island)

Name of protected area (Date of designation)	Legal foundation (Date of promulgation)	Objectives of system
Amami Gunto National Park (provisional name) (scheduled in 2017) Total National Park / Area in Amami-Oshima Island Total terrestrial area: 42,181 ha / 34,330 ha Special Protection Zone: 5,248 ha / 3,806 ha Special Zone: 35,363 ha / 29,896 ha ^{*1} Ordinary Zone: 1,570ha / 628 ha Total marine area: 33,082 ha ^{*2} Marine Special Zone: 1,124 ha ^{*2} Ordinary Zone: 31,958 ha ^{*2}	Natural Parks Act (June 1, 1957)	Outstanding natural scenic areas representing the sceneries of the State as designated by the Minister of the Environment for the purpose of serving to health, recreation and culture of the people as well as contributing to conservation of biological diversity, through protection of the excellent natural scenic areas and promoted utilization.
Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve (March 15, 2013) Total Forest Ecosystem Reserve / Area in Amami-Oshima Island Total area: 4,820 ha / 2,045 ha Preservation Zone: 2,253 ha / 731 ha Conservation and Utilization Zone: 2,567 ha / 1,314 ha	Act on the Administration and Management of National Forest (June 23, 1951) National Forest Administration and Management Bylaw (January 21, 1999)	Areas to preserve natural forests in virgin condition in order to maintain a natural environment of the forest ecosystem, protect plants and animals, preserve genetic resources, develop forest operation and management technique, and promote scientific research etc.
Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area (November 1, 1965) Total area: 320 ha (renewed October 28, 2005) Special Protection Zone: 103 ha	Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act (July 12, 2002)	Areas designated to protect and recover wildlife through prohibiting capture of wildlife, securing stable maintenance, conserving and managing diverse wildlife habitats and thereby securing local biodiversity conservation.
National Natural Monuments Kamiya/Yuwandake (November 8, 1968)	Act on Protection of Cultural Properties (May 30, 1950)	Animals, plants, and geological features of high academic value for the State.

*1 : Areas of Special Protection Zone includes Class II Special Zone in Kakeroma, Ukejima, and Yoro Islands.

*2 : Marine areas are public water surfaces owned by the State and are not clarified for each island. Therefore the figures show the area of the entire Amami Gunto National Park.



Forest near the summit of Mt. Yuwandake, Amami-Oshima Island (Photo: MOEJ)

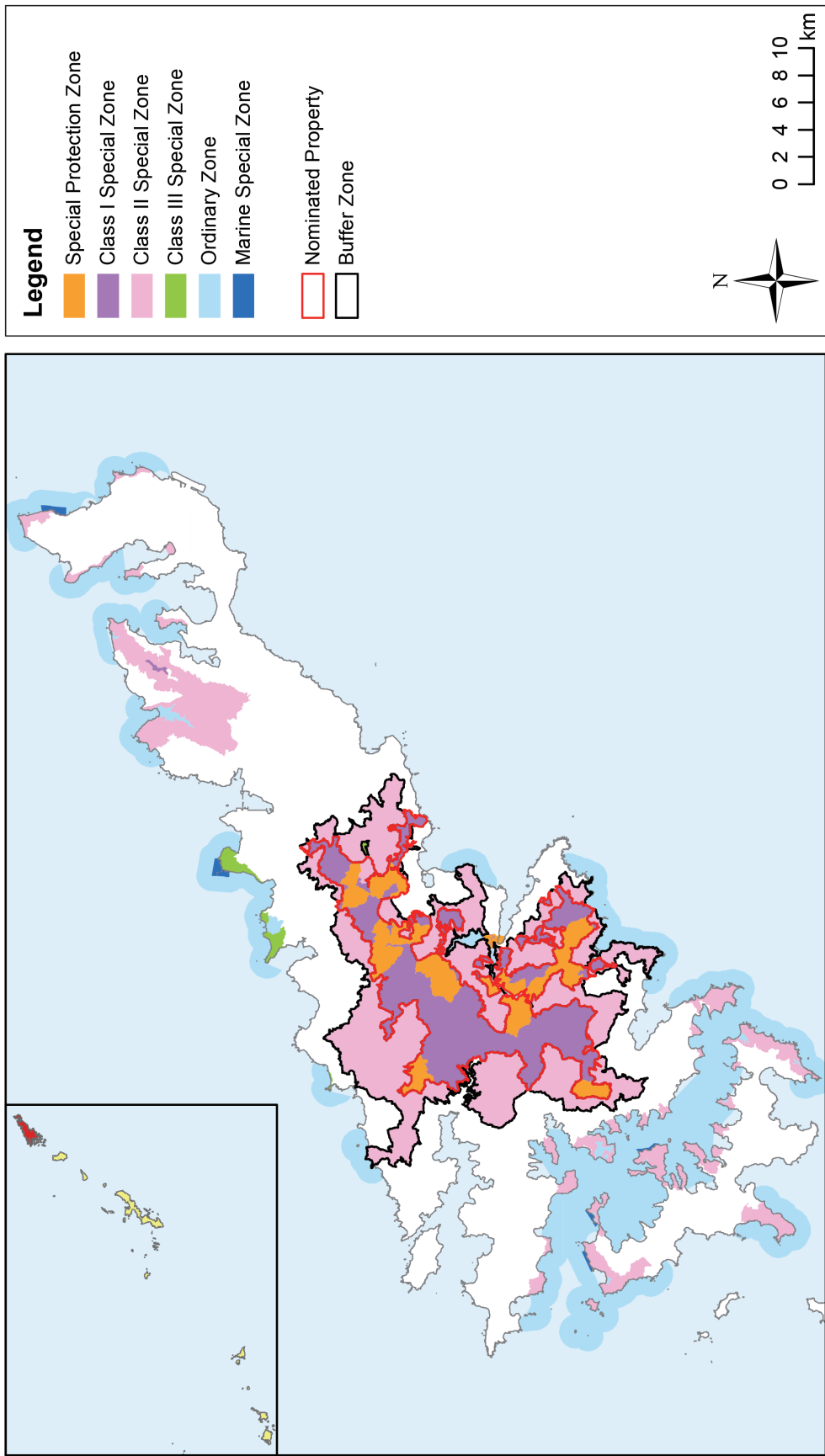


Figure 5-1-1: Amami Gunto National Park (Amami-Oshima Island)

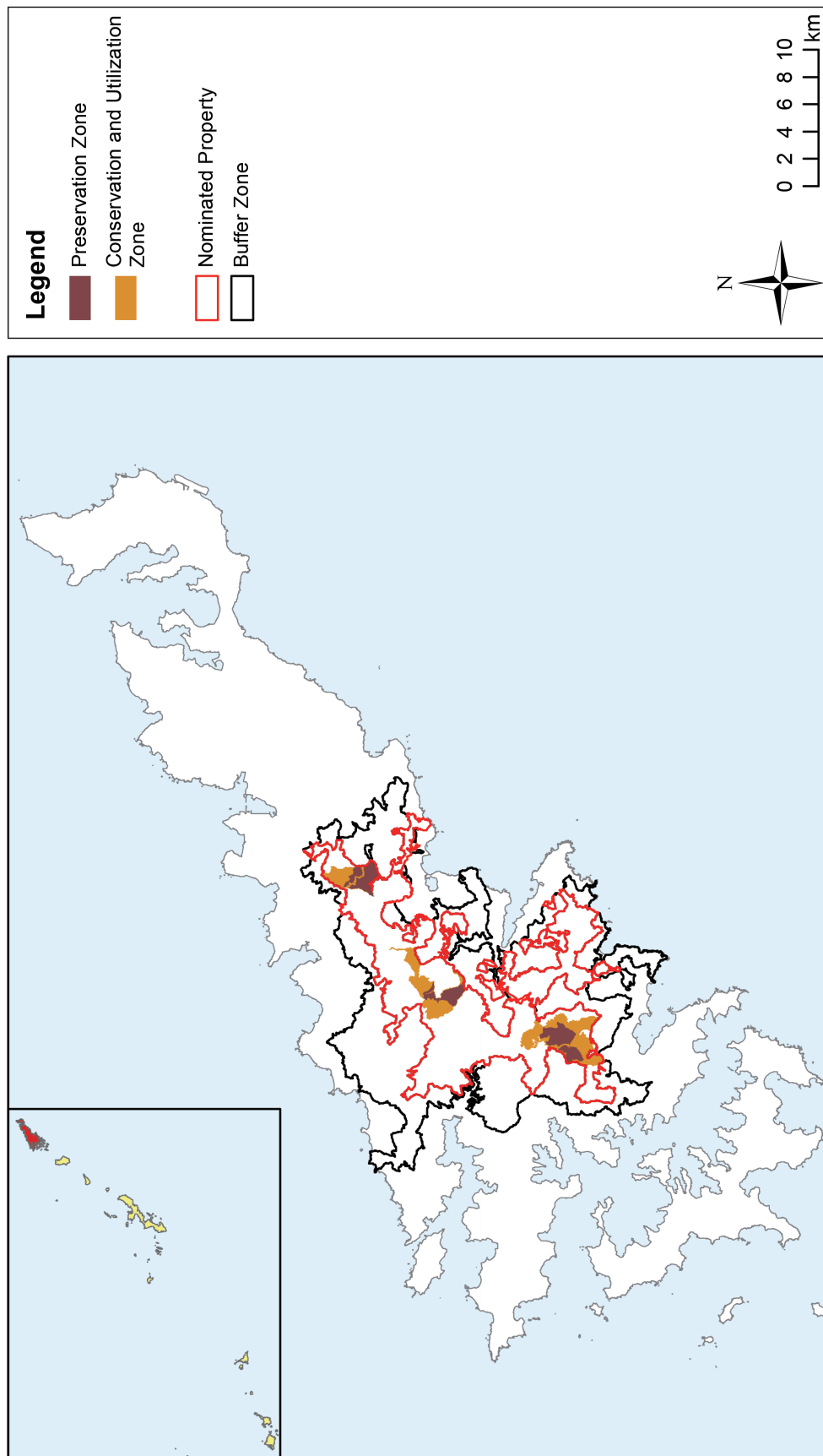


Figure 5-1-2: Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve (Amami-Oshima Island)

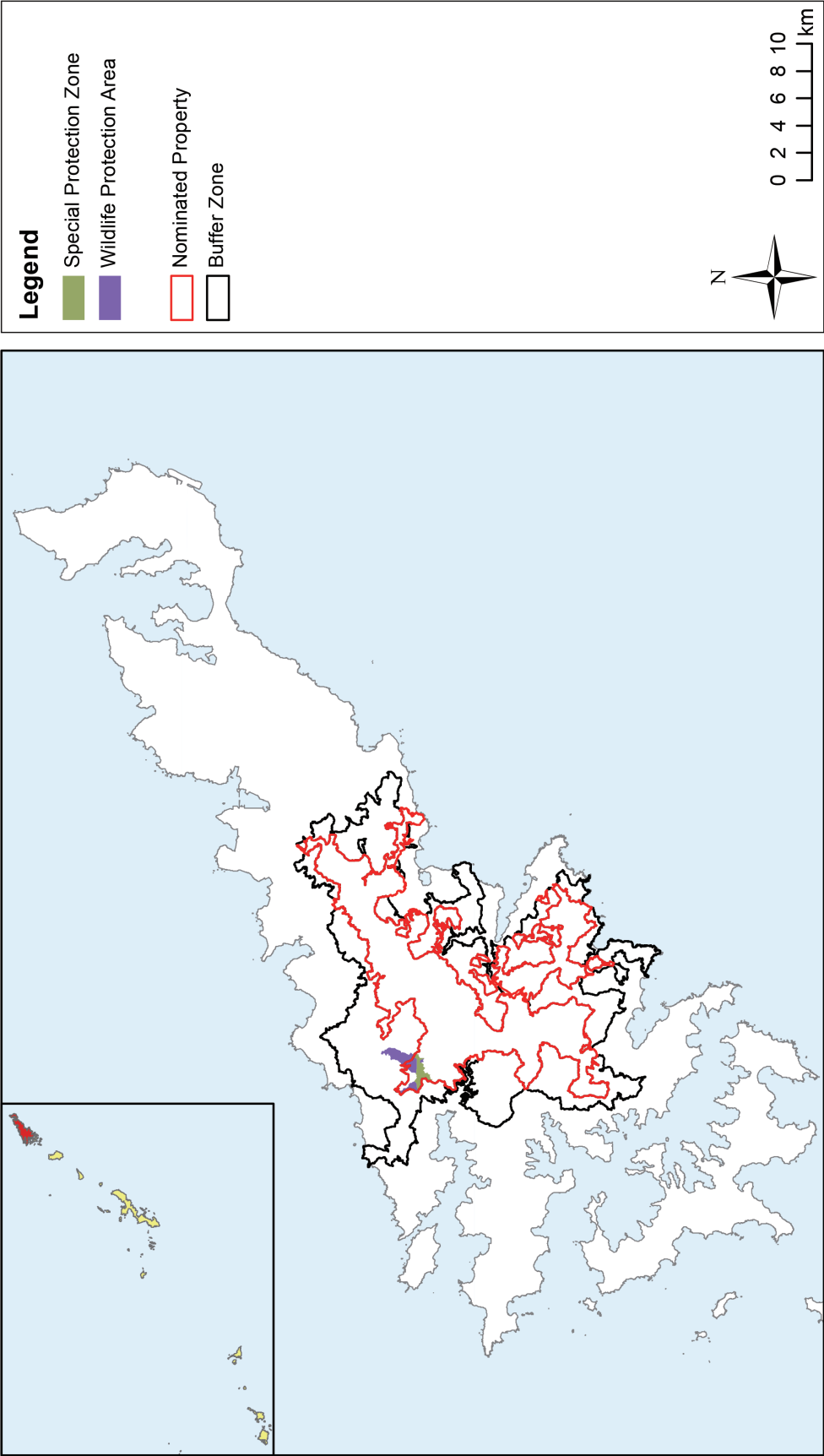


Figure 5-1-3: Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area (Amami-Oshima Island)

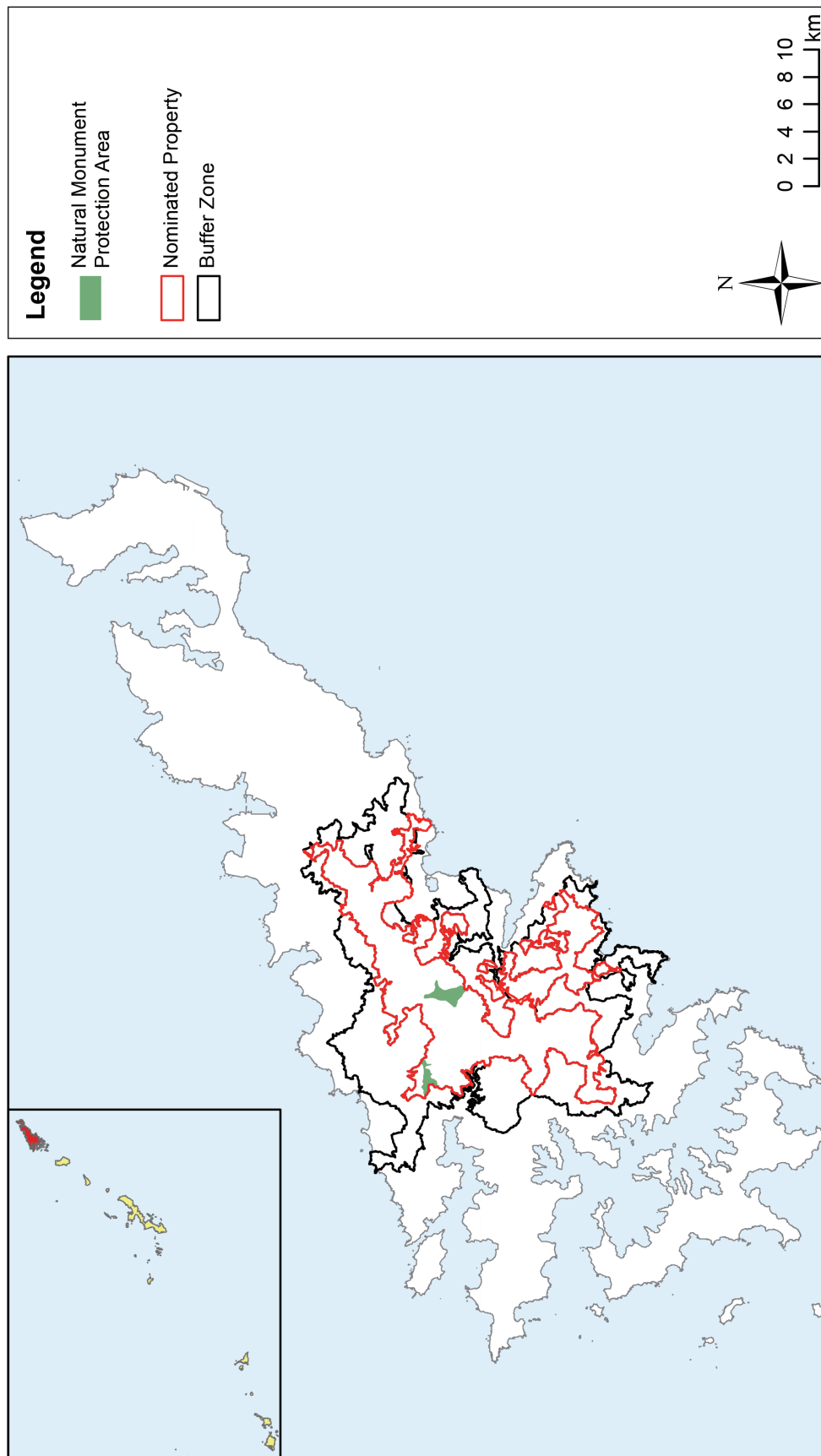


Figure 5-1-4: National Natural Monument, Kamiya-Yuwandake (Amami-Oshima Island)

Table 5-2-2: Designation details for protected areas in the nominated property (Tokunoshima Island)

Name of protected area (Date of designation)	Legal foundation (Date of promulgation)	Objectives of system
Amami Gunto National Park (provisional name) (scheduled in 2017) Total National Park /Area in Tokunoshima Island Total terrestrial area: 42,181 ha / 6,122 ha Special Protection Zone: 5,248 ha / 1,442 ha Special Zone: 35,363 ha / 4,362 ha Ordinary Zone: 1,570 ha / 318 ha Total marine area: 33,082 ha* Marine Special Zone: 1,124 ha* Ordinary Zone: 31,958 ha*	Natural Parks Act (June 1, 1957)	See Table 5-2-1
Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve (March 15, 2013) Total Forest Ecosystem Reserve / Area in Tokunoshima Island Total area: 4,820 ha / 2,775ha Preservation Zone: 2,253 ha / 1,521ha Conservation and Utilization Zone: 2,567 ha / 1,254 ha	Act on the Administration and Management of National Forest (June 23, 1951) National Forest Administration and Management Bylaw (January 21, 1999)	See Table 5-2-1

* : Marine areas are public water surfaces owned by the State and are not clarified for each island. Therefore the figures show the whole marine area of Amami Gunto National Park.



Mt. Inokawadake, Tokunoshima Island (Photo: JWRC)

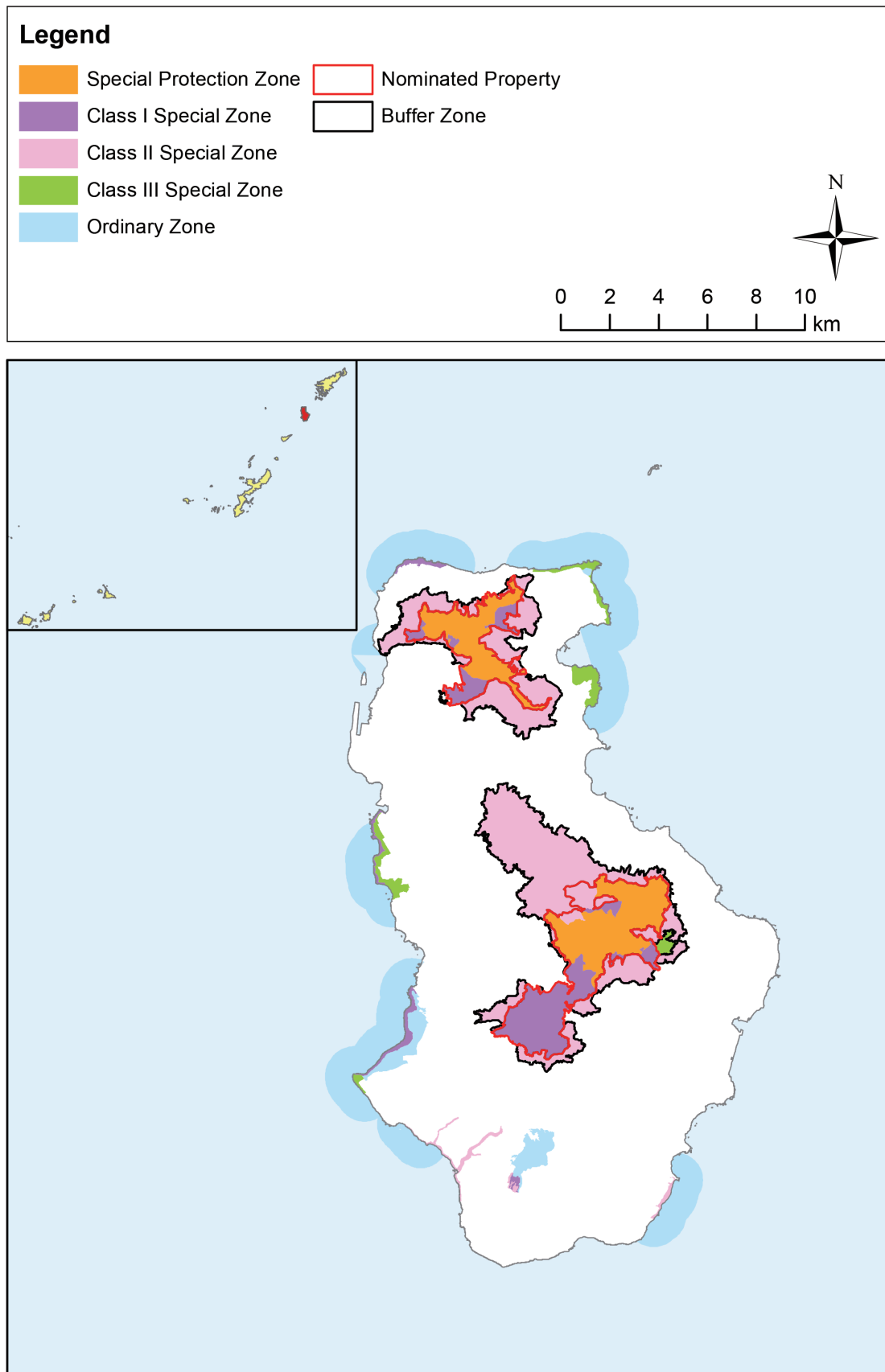


Figure 5-1-5: Amami Gunto National Park (Tokunoshima Island)

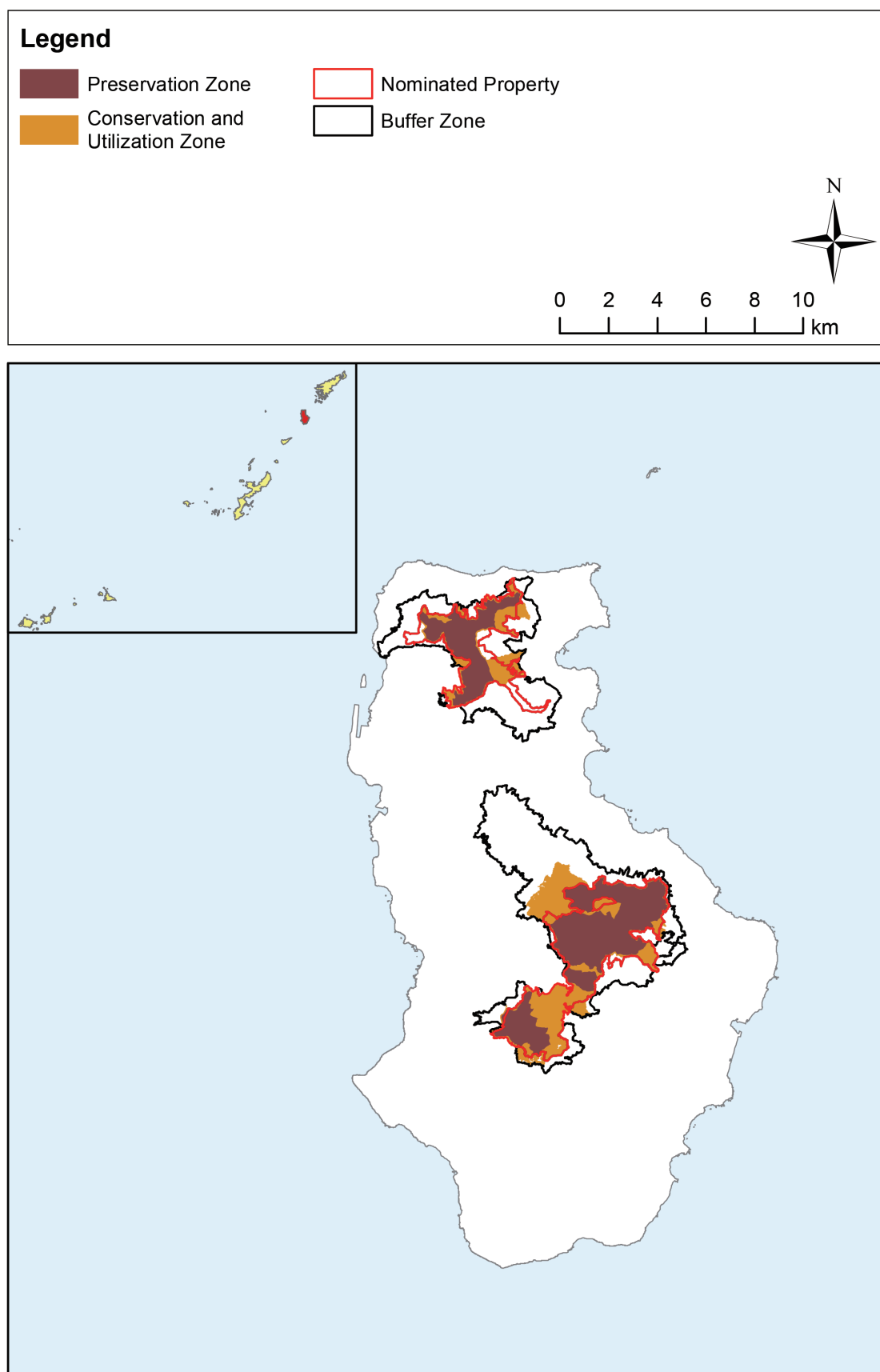


Figure 5-1-6: Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve (Tokunoshima Island)

Table 5-2-3: Designation details for protected areas in the nominated property (Northern part of Okinawa Island)

Name of protected area (Date of designation)	Legal foundation (Date of promulgation)	Objectives of system
Yambaru National Park (September 15, 2016) Total terrestrial area: 13,622 ha Special Protection Zone: 789 ha Special Zone: 11,827 ha Ordinary Zone: 1,006 ha Total marine area: 3,670 ha Ordinary Zone: 3,670 ha	Natural Parks Act (June 1, 1957)	See Table 5-2-1
Yambaru (Ada) National Wildlife Protection Area (November 1, 2009) Total area: 1,279 ha Special Protection Zone: 220 ha	Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act (July 12, 2002)	See Table 5-2-1
Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area (November 1, 2009) Total area: 465 ha	Same as above	See Table 5-2-1
National Natural Monuments Mt. Yonahadake Natural Monument Protection Area (May 15, 1972)	Act on Protection of Cultural Properties (May 30, 1950)	See Table 5-2-1



Mt. Yonahadake Trail, Yambaru National Park (Photo: MOEJ)

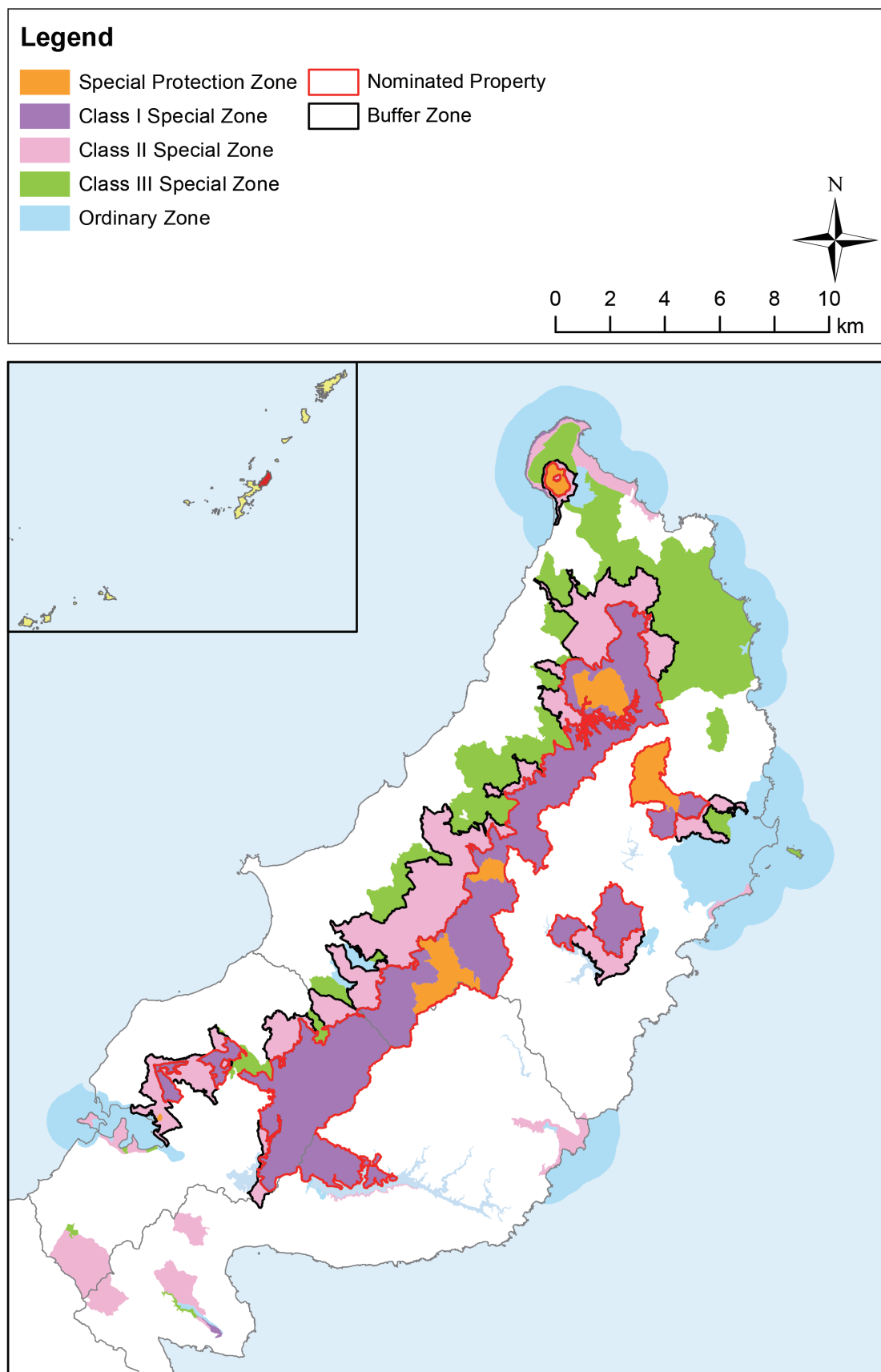


Figure 5-1-7: Yambaru National Park (Northern part of Okinawa Island)

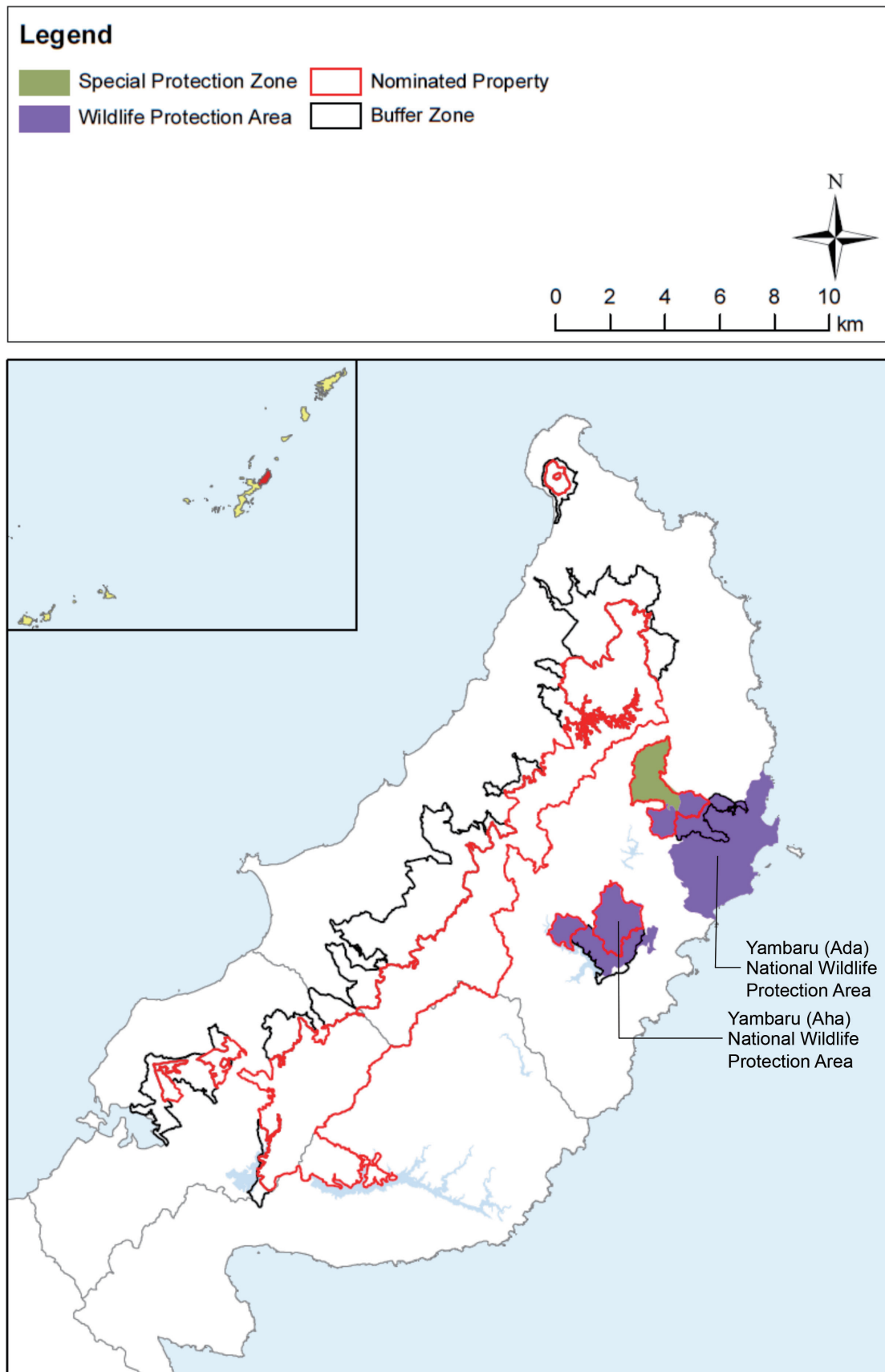


Figure 5-1-8: Yambaru (Ada) and Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area (Northern part of Okinawa Island)

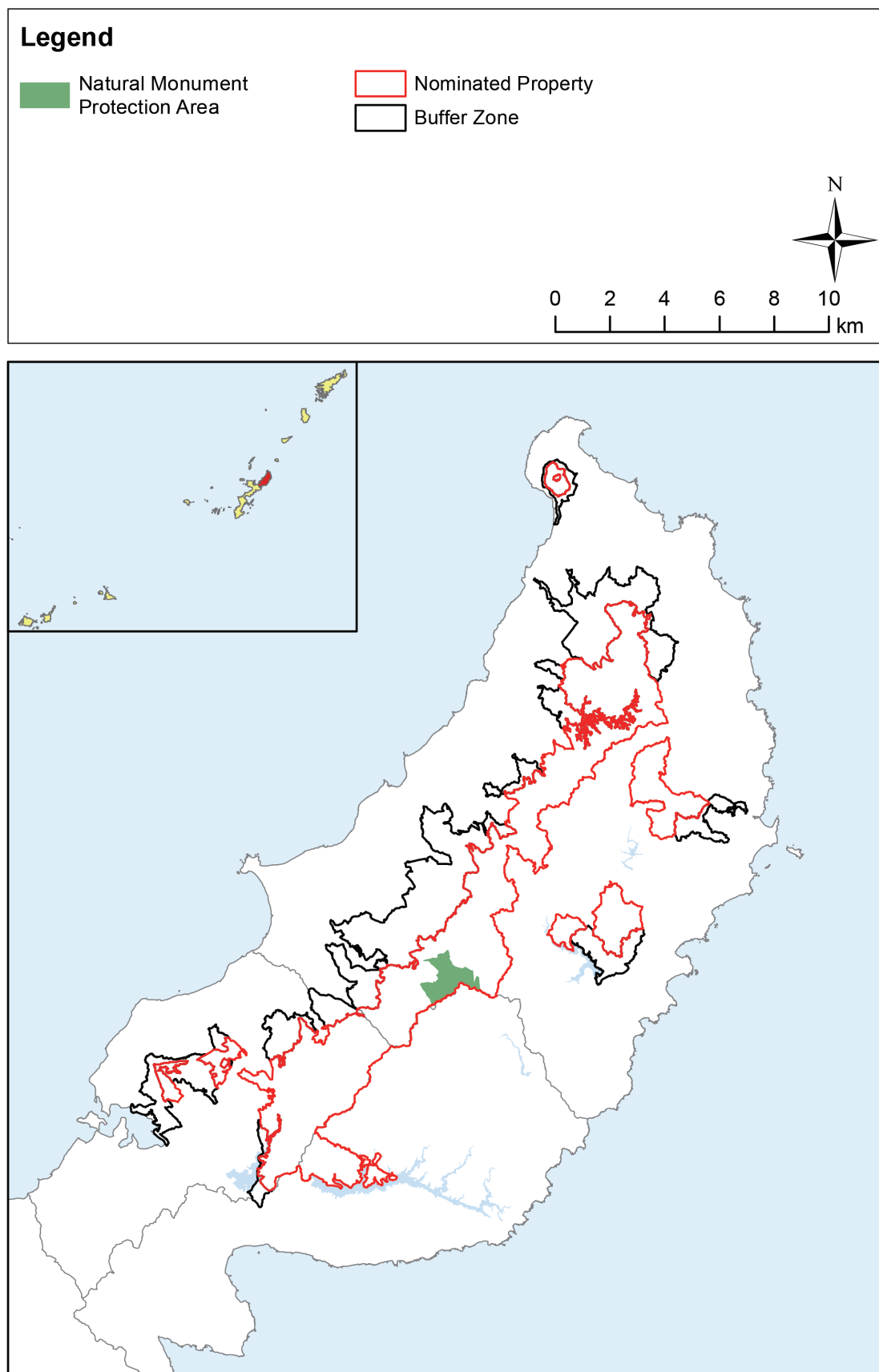


Figure 5-1-9: Mt. Yonahadake Natural Monument Protection Area (Northern part of Okinawa Island)

Table 5-2-4: Designation details for protected areas in the nominated property (Iriomote Island)

Name of protected area (Date of designation)	Legal foundation (Date of promulgation)	Objectives of system
Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park (May 15, 1972) Total National Park /Area in Iriomote Island Total terrestrial area: 40,653 ha / 29,446 ha (renewed April 15, 2016) Special Protection Zone: 5,181 ha / 4,624 ha Special Zone: 28,814 ha / 22,226 ha Ordinary Zone: 6,658 ha / 2,596 ha Total marine area: 81,497 ha (renewed April 15, 2016)* Marine Special Zone: 15,923 ha Ordinary Zone: 65,574 ha	Natural Parks Act (June 1, 1957)	See Table 5-2-1
Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve (March 28, 1991) Total area: 22,367 ha (expanded by amendment of Regional Administration and Management Plan April 1, 2015) Preservation Zone: 9,999 ha Conservation and Utilization Zone: 12,368 ha	Act on the Administration and Management of National Forest (June 23, 1951) National Forest Administration and Management Bylaw (January 21, 1999)	See Table 5-2-1
Iriomote National Wildlife Protection Area (March 1, 1992) Total area: 10,218 ha (renewed October 24, 2011) Special Protection Zone: 9,999 ha	Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act (July 12, 2002)	See Table 5-2-1
National Natural Monuments Nakama River Natural Monument Protection Area (May 15, 1972) Ubundul <i>Satakentia liukiensis</i> communities (May 15, 1972)	Act on Protection of Cultural Properties (May 30, 1950)	See Table 5-2-1

* : Marine areas are public water surfaces owned by the State and are not clarified for each island. Therefore the figures show the entire marine area of Amami Gunto National Park.



Mariyudo Waterfalls,
Iriomote National Park
(Photo: MOEJ)

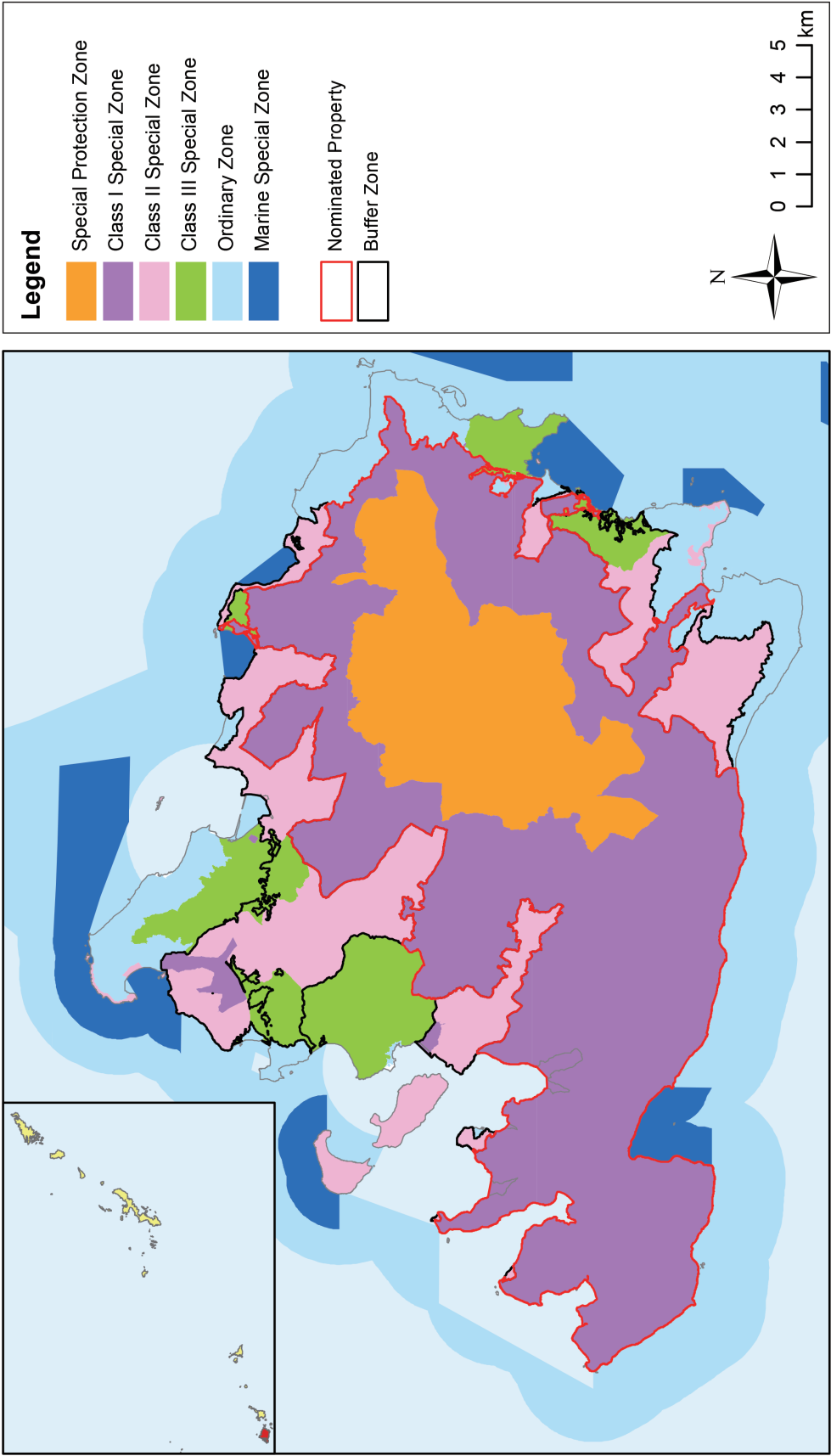


Figure 5-1-10: Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park (Iriomote Island)

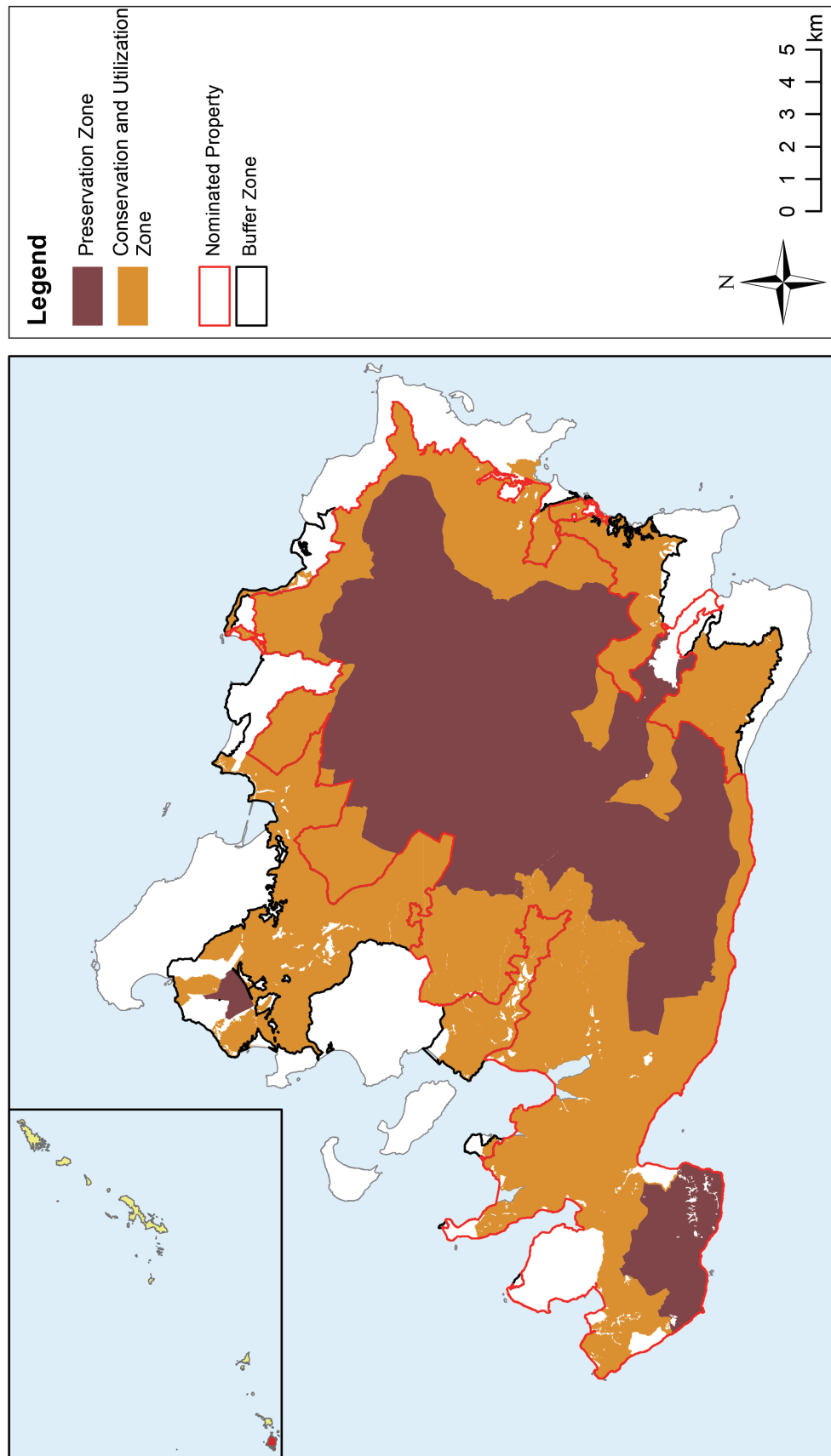


Figure 5-1-11: Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve (Iriomote Island)

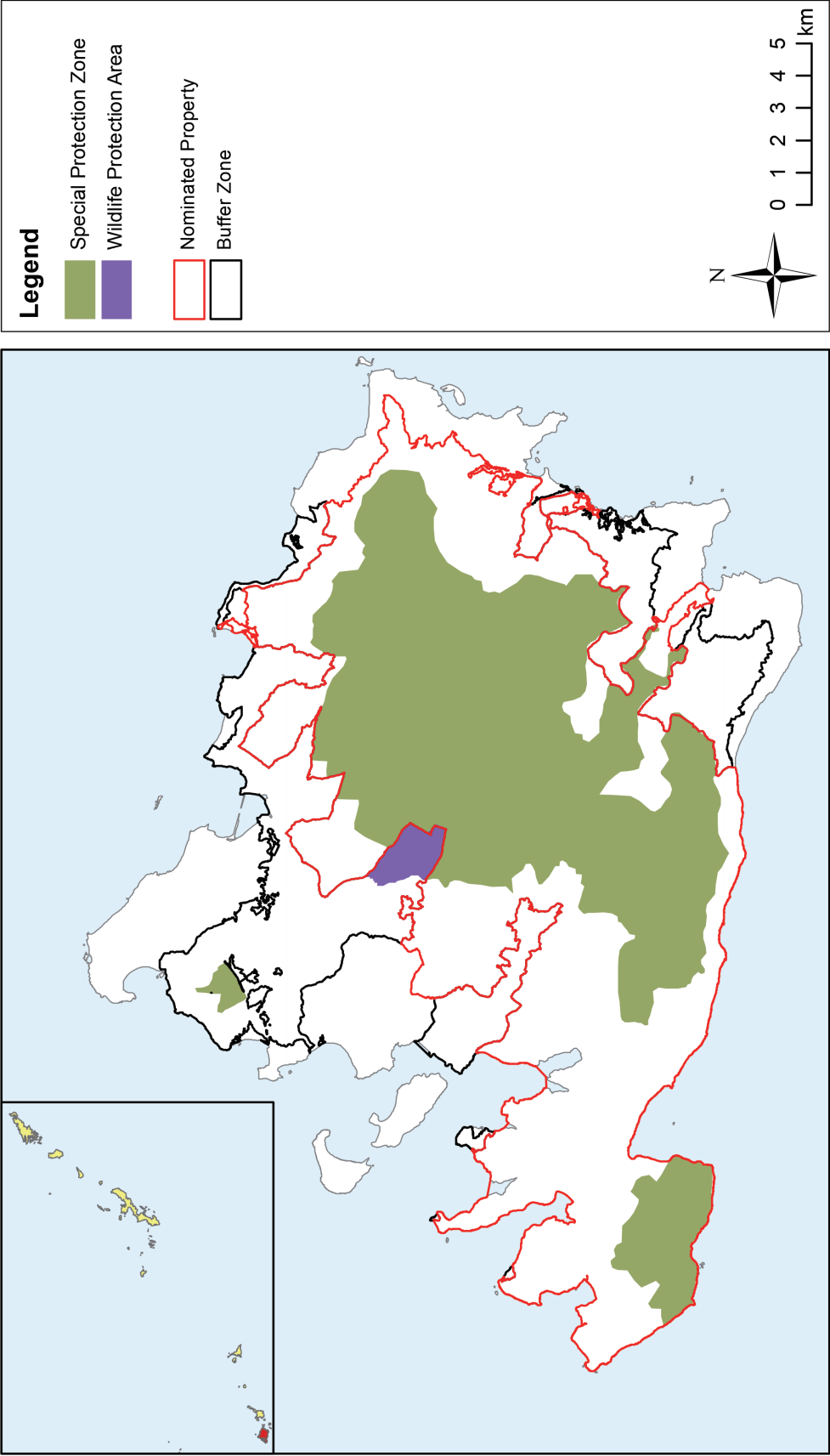


Figure 5-1-12: Iriomote National Wildlife Protection Area (Iriomote Island)

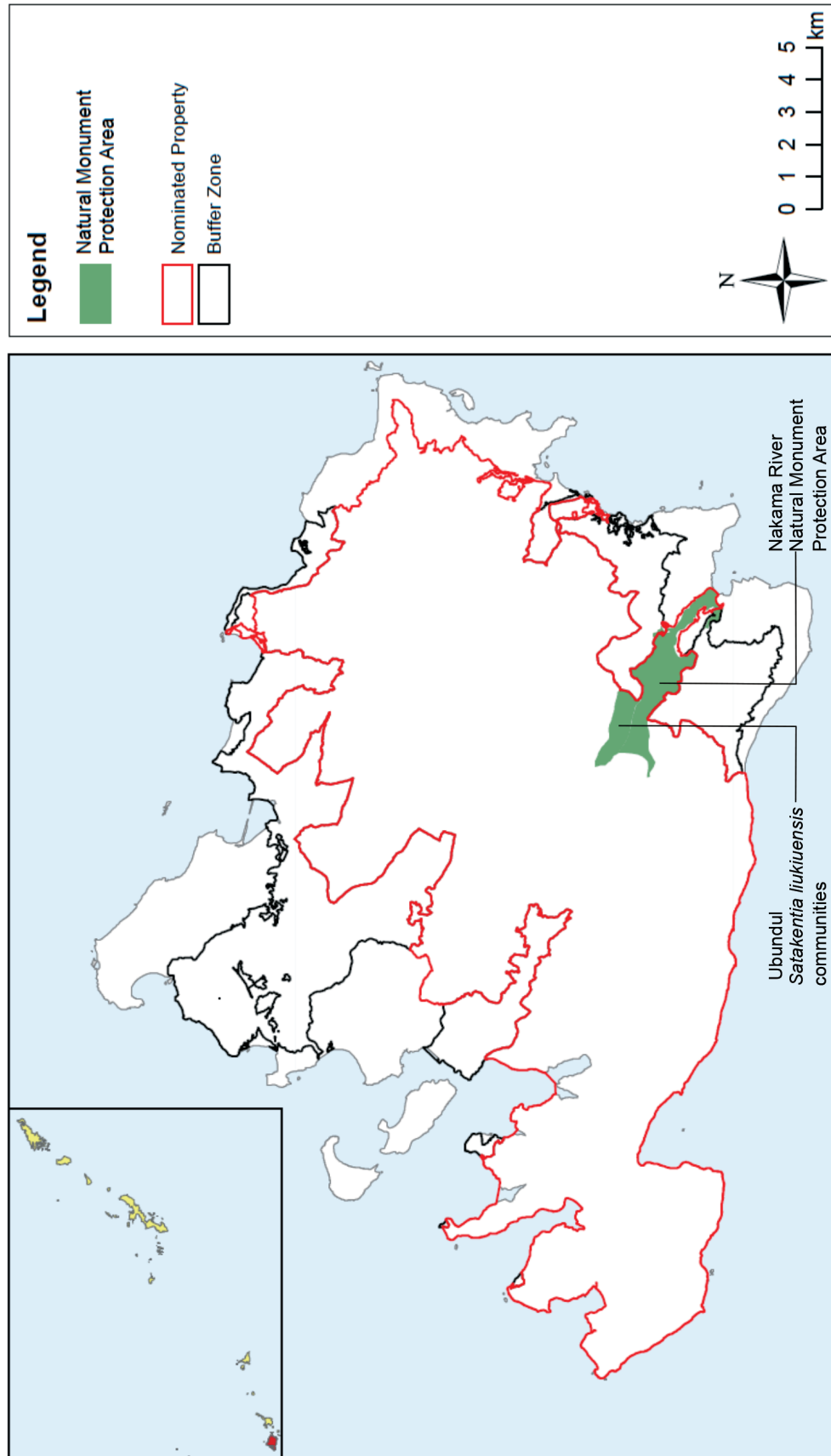


Figure 5-1-13: National Natural Monuments (Iriomote Island)

5.c. Means of Implementing Protective Measures

The nominated property is designated as protected areas listed in Tables 5-2-1 to 5-2-4, pursuant to domestic laws. Many of these protected areas overlap, thereby enhancing their function of protecting the nominated property as they complement one another.

In addition, within the boundaries of the nominated property are the habitats of endemic species and rare species, some of which are designated and protected as National Endangered Species under the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or as Natural Monument under the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties.

Overviews of the respective protection measures are given below.

5.c.1. Amami Gunto National Park, Yambaru National Park, and Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park

A National Park is an area designated and managed by the Minister of the Environment under the National Parks Act to protect the excellent natural scenic areas and promote utilization for the purpose of contributing to citizens' health, recreation and culture, and conserve biodiversity.

National Parks are divided into different categories and regulated according to those categories based on a Park Plan: Special Zone, an area where superb natural state must be maintained; Special Protection Zone, an area that conserves pristine state of nature, which must be protected in a particularly strict manner; and Ordinary Zone, an area where sceneries should be protected in an integrated manner along with aforementioned zones (Table 5-3).

Pursuant to the National Parks Act, a new National Park was designated in Amami-Oshima Island and Tokunoshima Island in 2017, and one in the northern part of Okinawa Island in 2016—Amami Gunto National Park and Yambaru National Park, respectively. In addition, almost entire area of Iriomote Island was designated as a National Park in 2016 due to a major expansion of Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park (Iriomote Island had part of its territory designated as Iriomote National Park in 1972). The nominated property is designated as either a Special Protection Zone, or a Class I Special Zone and acts potentially affecting the maintenance of evergreen broadleaved forests, which offer vital habitats for wild living organisms that characterize the nature of the region, are subject to regulation.

For the purpose of promoting appropriate utilization of the natural environment with its conservation being ensured, work has also been done to establish trails, recreation sites, etc. in accordance with a National Park visitor facility plan.

Table 5-3: Regulations applicable within the respective zones

Acts in a Special Zone that require permission from the Minister of the Environment	Acts in a Special Protection Zone that require permission from the Minister of the Environment	Acts in an Ordinary Zone that require notification to the Minister of the Environment
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constructing, reconstructing or extending structures 2. Felling trees or bamboos 3. Mining minerals or extracting soil and stones 4. Causing increase or decrease of the water-level or quantity of water of rivers and lakes, etc. 5. Discharging sewage or waste water into a designated lakes, and wetlands 6. Setting or otherwise showing advertisements, etc 7. Accumulating or storing in the open air soil and stones or designated materials 8. Reclaiming the surface of water or reclaiming by drainage 9. Changing the feature of land 10. Collecting or damaging designated plants 11. Capturing or killing or wounding designated animals 12. Altering the colors of roofs, wall surface, etc. 13. Entering into designated wetlands, etc. 14. Using vehicles, horses or power-driven vessels, etc in designated areas 	<p>In addition to 1 through to 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 on the left:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Damaging trees or bamboos 2. Planting or sowing seeds of plants 3. Pasturing livestock 4. Accumulating or storing things in the open air 5. Setting fire or making fire 6. Collecting or damaging plants, or collecting fallen leaves or branches 7. Capturing, killing or wounding animals, or collecting or damaging their eggs 8. Using vehicles, horses or power-driven vessels, or landing an airplanes, other than roads or plazas 9. Releasing animals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constructing, reconstructing or extending major structures 2. Causing increase or decrease of the water-levels or quantity of rivers and lakes, etc. within a Special Zone 3. Setting or otherwise showing advertisements, etc 4. Reclaiming the surface of water or reclaiming by drainage 5. Mining minerals or extracting soil and stones 6. Changing the feature of land 7. Changing the feature of seabed

*1: Special Zones are classified into three categories with each subject to a different degree of restrictions. In Class I Special Zones, the existing landscape must be protected as much as possible, for instance, with the felling of trees and bamboos permitted only in the case of single-tree selection cutting. Class II Special Zones are defined as areas where efforts must be made to achieve good balance with agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, with the felling of trees and bamboos permitted so far as the relevant statutory criteria, such as a limit on the total clear-cut area, are satisfied. As for Class III Special Zones, there are no restrictions on the felling of trees and bamboos.

*2: Even if an application is filed for permission for conducting any the above-listed acts in a Special Protection Zone, approval is given only when such an act is deemed necessary for academic research or other forms of public interest.

5.c.2. Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve and Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve

The purposes of a Forest Ecosystem Reserve are to contribute to the preservation of the natural environment composed by forest ecosystems, protection of wildlife and genetic resources, development of forest operation and administration techniques as well as academic research, etc. by administering primeval natural forests that represent Japan's climate zones and forest zones. A Forest Ecosystem Reserve is an area designated and administered by the Forestry Agency under a Regional Administration and Management Plan prescribed in the Act on the Administration and Management of National Forest.

Under this system, Iriomote Island had the Iriomote Forestry Ecosystem Reserve designated in 1991 and expanded its boundaries in 2012 and 2015; consequently, most of Iriomote Island has been designated as a Forest Ecosystem Reserve. For Amami-Oshima Island and Tokunoshima Island, the Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve was designated in 2013, primarily in the mountainous regions of both islands.

A Preservation Zone within a Forest Ecosystem Reserve is a zone mainly consists of pristine natural forests including endemic species and rare species habitats. A general rule applied to a Preservation Zone is to have natural transitions take care of it with no human intervention, so as not to affect the forest ecosystems.

A Conservation and Utilization Zone is a zone which has area large enough to serve as a buffer keeping Preservation Zone free from direct influence from the external environment. As a general rule, a Conservation and Utilization Zone which is consisted mainly of the same type of natural forest as those in Preservation Zone must be treated in a way equivalent to a Preservation Zone (Table 5-4).

Within the Forest Ecosystem Reserve, based on scientific grounds, acts are taken if deemed necessary to conserve and rehabilitate its endemic biodiversity and forest ecosystem. In addition, scientific researches, nature observation and education, utilization of genetic resources, and other acts of public interests are implemented if deemed necessary.

Table 5-4: Main policies concerning the Forest Ecosystem Reserve

Preservation Zone	In principle, this zone is left to natural transition, without human act.
Conservation and Utilization Zone	Natural forests are dealt with in the same manner as those in the Preservation Zone. Artificial forests may undergo operations of multi-storied forests to transform into natural forests.

5.c.3. National Wildlife Protection Area

A National Wildlife Protection Area is an area designated by the Minister of the Environment pursuant to the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act. Its purpose is to conserve the area for protection of wildlife if deemed necessary from the viewpoint of international or national wildlife protection. Based on this act, capture of wildlife requires permission from the Minister of the Environment or other. Hunting does not require permission but needs other procedures such as obtaining a license and registration. Hunting is prohibited within the boundaries of a Wildlife Protection Area (Table 5-5). A zone that poses a particular need for the protection of wildlife or its habitat is designated as a Special Protection Zone, an area where certain development activities are regulated.

Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area

Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area is a forested area dominated by such broadleaved evergreen trees as *Castanopsis* (*Castanopsis sieboldii*), *Quercus miyagii*, *Machilus thunbergii* and *Distylium racemosum*, and gained this designation in 1965 as it serves as habitats for the Amami rabbit (*Pentalagus furnessi*), Amami woodcock (*Scolopax mira*), Amami thrush (*Zoothera dauma major*), white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos owstoni*), Ryukyu robin (*Luscinia komadori komadori*), and other rare wildlife species. The entire area is included in either the nominated property or the buffer zone.

Yambaru (Ada) National Wildlife Protection Area

Containing the vast expanse of an evergreen broadleaved forest, most notably *Castanopsis*, the area was designated as a National Wildlife Protection Area in 2009 as it provides habitats for the Okinawa woodpecker (*Sapheopipo noguchii*), Okinawa rail (*Gallirallus okinawae*), subspecies of Ryukyu robin (*Luscinia komadori namiyei*), Ryukyu long-haired rat (*Diplothrix legata*), and other rare wildlife species. It is included in either the nominated property or the buffer zone, except for the vicinity of settlements and other such areas.

Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area

Containing the vast expanse of an evergreen broadleaved forest, most notably *Castanopsis*, the area gained its designation in 2009 as it provides habitats for the Okinawa woodpecker, Okinawa rail, subspecies of Ryukyu robin (*Luscinia komadori namiyei*), and other rare wildlife species. Most of its land area is included in either the nominated property or the buffer zone.

Iriomote National Wildlife Protection Area

Containing the vast expanse of a pristine evergreen broadleaved forest, most notably *Castanopsis* and *Quercus miyagii*, the area gained its designation in 1992 as it provides habitats for the Iriomote cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis iriomotensis*), crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela perplexus*), emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica yamashinai*), and other rare wildlife species. The entire area is included in either the nominated property or the buffer zone.

Table 5-5: Description of regulations applicable to the respective areas

Acts prohibited in a Wildlife Protection Area	Acts in a Special Protection Zone that require permission from the Minister of the Environment
Hunting of wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constructing a new building or other structure, or remodeling or adding to an existing building or structure 2. Undertaking landfill or reclaiming a water surface 3. Felling trees or bamboos 4. Any act specified by a Cabinet Order that might affect the protection of wildlife within the boundaries of a zone designated within a Special Protection Zone

5.c.4. National Endangered Species

A National Endangered Species means endangered wildlife species that live or grow in Japan, and which is designated by a Cabinet Order pursuant to the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Among the animals and plants that live or grow in the nominated property, the designation of National Endangered Species has been given to six mammals, including the Iriomote cat, Amami rabbit, Ryukyu long-haired rat, Okinawa spiny rat (*Tokudaia muenninki*), Amami spiny rat (*T. osimensis*) and Tokunoshima spiny rat (*T. tokunoshimensis*); 13 birds, including the Amami woodcock, Okinawa rail, white-backed woodpecker and Okinawa woodpecker; two reptiles, including Kuroiwa's ground gecko (*Goniurosaurus kuroiwa*) and the banded ground gecko (*G. splendens*); six amphibians, including Holst's frog (*Babina holsti*), the Otton frog (*B. subaspera*), Namie's frog (*Limnonectes namiyei*), Okinawa Ishikawa's frog (*Odorrana ishikawae*), Amami Ishikawa's frog (*O. splendida*) and Anderson's crocodile newt (*Echinotriton andersoni*); three insects, including a stag beetle (*Neolucanus okinawanus*) and Yanbaru long-armed scarab beetle (*Cheirotonus jambar*); one inland water decapod crustacean; and 23 plants, including *Polystichum obae* and *Dendrobium okinawense*. It is prohibited to capture, kill, injure, wound, collect, damage, transfer or perform any similar act on these National Endangered Species.

Of those National Endangered Species, plans for the protection and recovery program have been established for seven species, including the Amami rabbit, Okinawa rail, and Iriomote cat based on Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The plan aims to promote the species reproduction and maintain their habitats. A variety of work is underway, such as clarifying and monitoring their current status, maintaining and improving their habitats, and engaging in captive breeding, for the purpose of their stable survival under natural state (see Appendix2-2).

5.c.5. Natural Monuments

A Natural Monument means an animal (including its habitat, breeding, and migrating site), a plant (including its native growing sites) or a geological feature or mineral (including land where any unique natural phenomenon is in progress) that is designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, pursuant to the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties for the purpose of preserving the important monuments that have high academic value for Japan. Those that are particularly important among them are designated as Special Natural Monumnet.

The animals designated as Special Natural Monumnets in the nominated property include the Amami rabbit, Iriomote cat, Okinawa woodpecker and crested serpent eagle. The designated Natural Monuments are: two mammals, including Ryukyu long-haired rat and spiny rat; seven birds, including Okinawa rail, white-backed woodpecker and Amami jay (*Garrulus lidthi*); three reptiles, including yellow-margined box turtle (*Cuora flavomarginata*), Ryukyu black-breasted leaf turtle (*Geoemyda japonica*) and Kishinoue's giant skink (*Plestiodon kishinouyei*); one insect, i.e. Yanbaru long-armed scarab beetle; and one group of inland water decapod crustaceans, i.e. terrestrial helmet crabs (seven species belonging to the same genus *Coenobita*). In the plants category, one site is designated as Natural Monuments, i.e. the Ubundul *Satakentia liukiensis* communities. In addition, three sites are designated as Natural Monument Protection Areas: Kamiya-Yuwandake, the Nakama River Natural Monument Protection Area, and Mt. Yonahadake Natural Monument Protection Area.

Anyone who intends to perform any act that would involve changing the current status or affecting the preservation of a Natural Monument requires permission from the Commissioner for Cultural Affairs.

5.c.6. Programs concerning alien species countermeasures

Pursuant to the Act on the Prevention of Adverse Ecological Impacts Caused by Specified Invasive Alien Species, certain alien species that live or grow in the nominated property, such as the small Indian mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*), cane toad (*Rhinella marina*), white-lipped treefrog (*Polypedates leucomystax*), *Coreopsis lanceolata* are designated as Specified Invasive Alien Species; consequently, various acts that include importing, raising, growing, storing and carrying, as well as releasing, planting and sowing them are regulated.

5.d. Existing Plans Related to Municipality And Regions In Which The Proposed Property Is Located

Tables 5-6-1 to 5-6-4 list the plans concerning the conservation and use of the nominated property and the buffer zones, including National Park Plans, which provide protective regulations and visitor facility plans, and Regional Administration and Management Plans, which prescribe policies for the management of Forest Ecosystem Reserves and other national forests.

Table 5-6-1: Plans concerning the nominated property and the buffer zones (Amami-Oshima Island)

Plan name	Legal foundation	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Amami Gunto National Park Plan	Article 7 of the National Parks Act	Ministry of the Environment	To serve as basic guidelines for appropriate operation of a National Park by clarifying policies to maintain the scenic beauty and landscapes, and to promote suitable use as a park.	The plan presents the regulation and utilization plan required for appropriately protecting the unique ecosystem, fauna and flora, landscapes, etc. that Amami Gunto National Park contains, and actively promoting park utilization based on such protective actions.
Regional Administration and Management Plan (Amami-Oshima Island Forest Planning Zone)	Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Act Concerning Utilization of National Forest Land	Forestry Agency	A five-year plan that provides basic matters regarding the administration and management of national forest in the Amami-Oshima Island Forest Planning Zone, in light of the National Forest Management Basic Plan. National forest administration and management should be performed appropriately pursuant to this plan.	Basic matters regarding the maintenance and conservation of national forest including Forest Ecosystem Reserve; matters regarding supplies of forest products; and matters regarding utilization of the national park are described.
Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve Regional Conservation Management Plan		Forestry Agency	A plan that clarifies how national forest conservation management should be designed in consideration of the features of the Amami Island Group, with the aim of handing down the unique nature of the Amami Island Group to posterity without letting it further deteriorate, and also gradually restoring it to a pristine state, in the Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematic promotion of countermeasures against alien species in order to protect the endemic ecosystem of the Amami Island Group. - Coordination of use and protection for the purpose of mitigating impacts on the endemic ecosystem as a result of its use.
Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area Designation Plan; Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area Yuwandake Special Protection Zone Designation Plan	Article 28 and 29 of the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act	Ministry of the Environment	To protect Wildlife found significant from both international and national viewpoints, and their habitats	The plan states the zone being designated, its area, the wildlife living there, guidelines on protection, etc.

Plan name	Legal foundation	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Plan for Protection and Recovery Program (Amami woodcock, Amami thrush, Amami rabbit)	Article 45 of the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Agency), etc.	Established for contributing to the appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program.	The goals, areas, contents, and other necessary matters to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program.
Amami Island Group Promotion and Development Plan	Article 5 of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion and Development of the Amami Island Group	Kagoshima Prefecture	A plan that presents the directions of promotion and development of the Amami Island Group pursuant to the Basic Policy on Promotion and Development of the Amami Island Group, set by the national government.	With the basic principle set on taking advantage of the geographical and natural features of the Amami Island Group and enhancing its appeal, the plan promotes local initiatives to encourage relocation and enhance communication exchange.
Amami-Oshima Island Regional Forestry Plan	Article 5 of the Forest Act	Kagoshima Prefecture	A 10-year plan, developed every five years, on prefectural, municipal, and private forests in the Amami-Oshima Island Forest Planning Zone for formulating and promoting the directions and objectives of forestry operations.	The plan defines the boundaries of forest areas to be covered, goals of forest development and conservation by the function of each forest, scheduled volumes of logging, afforestation, etc., and also describes guidelines and criteria for municipal forest development plans.
Phase 2 Mongoose Control Plan for Amami-Oshima Island	Act on the Prevention of Adverse Ecological Impacts Caused by Specified Invasive Alien Species	Ministry of the Environment	A plan focused on the complete elimination of the small Indian mongoose, a Specified Invasive Alien Species, from Amami-Oshima Island for the purpose of recovering the native species on Amami-Oshima Island.	The plan states the region in which control action is to be taken, control goals, control structure, a description of actions to be implemented, etc.

Table 5-6-2: Plans concerning the nominated property and the buffer zones (Tokunoshima Island)

Plan name	Legal foundation	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Amami Gunto National Park Park Plan	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			
Regional Administration and Management Plan (Amami-Oshima Island Forest Planning Zone)	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			
Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve Regional Preservation Management Plan	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			
Plan for Protection and Recovery Program (Amami woodcock, Amami rabbit)	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			
Amami Island Group Promotion and Development Plan	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			
Amami-Oshima Island Regional Forestry Plan	Same as Amami-Oshima Island			



Headwater forest, Tokunoshima Island (Photo: MOEJ)

Table 5-6-3: Plans concerning the nominated property and the buffer zones (northern part of Okinawa Island)

Plan name	Legal foundation.	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Yambaru National Park Plan	Article 7 of the National Parks Act	Ministry of the Environment	To serve as basic guidelines for appropriate operation of a National Park by clarifying policies to maintain the scenic beauty and landscapes, and to promote suitable use as a park.	The plan presents the regulation and utilization plan required for appropriately protecting the unique ecosystem, fauna and flora, landscapes, etc. that Yambaru National Park contains, and actively promoting park utilization based on such protective actions.
Regional Administration and Management Plan (Northern Okinawa Forest Planning Zone)	Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Act Concerning Utilization of National Forest Land	Forestry Agency	A five-year plan that provides basic matters regarding the administration and management of national forest in the northern part of Okinawa Island Forest Planning Zone, in light of the National Forest Management Basic Plan. National forest administration and management should be performed appropriately pursuant to this plan.	Basic matters regarding the maintenance and conservation of national forest including Forest Ecosystem Reserve; matters regarding supplies of forest products; and matters regarding utilization of the national park are described.
Yambaru (Ada) National Wildlife Protection Area Designation Plan; Yambaru (Ada) National Wildlife Protection Area Yambaru (Ada) Special Protection Zone Designation Plan; Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area Designation Plan	Article 28 and 29 of the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act	Ministry of the Environment	To protect wildlife found significant from both international and national viewpoints, and their habitats.	The plan states the zone being designated, its area, the wildlife living there, guidelines on protection, etc.
Plan for Protection and Recovery Program (Okinawa rail, Okinawa woodpecker, Yanbaru long-armed scarab beetle)	Article 45 of the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Agency), etc.	Established for contributing to the appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program.	The goals, areas, contents, and other necessary matters to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program.

Plan name	Legal foundation.	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Okinawa Promotion and Development Plan	Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion and Development of Okinawa	Okinawa Prefecture	A plan about the directions that promotion of Okinawa should take and basic measures to be taken, as set pursuant to the Basic Policy on Promotion and Development of Okinawa, set by the national government.	With the aim set for shaping fundamental conditions for Okinawa's self-reliant development and building a prosperous community, the plan states the directions and approaches to promotion.
Northern Okinawa Regional Forestry Plan	Article 5 of the Forest Act	Okinawa Prefecture	A 10-year plan, developed every five years, on private forests in the northern part of Okinawa Island Forest Planning Zone that states the goals of forest development and conservation of private forests, scheduled volumes of logging, afforestation, etc.	The plan defines the boundaries of forest areas to be covered, goals of forest development and conservation by the function of each forest, policies on measures to control forest disease and pest damage, etc.
Phase 2 Mongoose Control Plan for the Northern Part of Okinawa Island	Act on the Prevention of Adverse Ecological Impacts Caused by Specified Invasive Alien Species	Ministry of the Environment, Okinawa Prefecture	A plan focused on the complete elimination of the small Indian mongoose north of the first northward movement prevention fences, and on the prevention of re-invasion for the purpose of restoring and conserving the ecosystem of the Yambaru region in a stable condition.	The plan states the region in which control action is to be taken, control goals, control structure, a description of actions to be implemented, etc.



Prevention fence against mongooses' northward invasion, northern part of Okinawa Island (Photo: MOEJ)

Table 5-6-4: Plans concerning the nominated property and the buffer zones (Iriomote Island)

Plan name	Underlying law or regulation, etc.	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park Park Plan	Article 7 of the National Parks Act	Ministry of the Environment	To serve as basic guidelines for appropriate operation of a National Park by clarifying policies to maintain the scenic beauty and landscapes, and to promote suitable use as a park.	The plan presents the regulation and utilization plan required for appropriately protecting the unique ecosystem, fauna and flora, landscapes, etc. that Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park contains, and actively promoting park utilization based on such protective actions.
Regional Administration and Management Plan (Miyako-Yaeyama Forest Planning Zone)	Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Act Concerning Utilization of National Forest Land	Forestry Agency	A five-year plan that provides basic matters regarding the administration and management of national forest in Miyako-Yaeyama Forest Planning Zone, in light of the National Forest Management Basic Plan. National forest administration and management should be performed appropriately pursuant to this plan.	Basic matters regarding the maintenance and conservation of national forest including Forest Ecosystem Reserve; matters regarding supplies of forest products; and matters regarding utilization of the national park are described. To conserve the unique ecosystem of the Miyako-Yaeyama region in an integrated manner, the existing protected forest is to be reorganized and appropriate protection will be ensured by designating it as the Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve.
Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve Regional Preservation Management Plan		Forestry Agency	A plan that clarifies how national forest conservation management should be designed in consideration of the features of Iriomote Island, with the aim of handing down the unique nature of Iriomote Island to posterity without letting it further deteriorate, and also gradually restoring it to a pristine state, in the Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Systematic promotion of countermeasures against alien species in order to protect the endemic ecosystem of Iriomote Island. - Coordination of use and protection for the purpose of mitigating impacts on the endemic ecosystem as a result of its use.

Plan name	Underlying law or regulation, etc.	Responsible agency	Purpose	Summary
Iriomote National Wildlife Protection Area Designation Plan; Iriomote Wildlife Protection Area Iriomote Special Protection Zone Designation Plan	Article 28 and 29 of the Wildlife Protection, Control and Hunting Management Act	Ministry of the Environment	To protect wildlife found significant from both international and national viewpoints, and their habitats.	The plan states the zone being designated, its area, the wildlife living there, guidelines on protection, etc.
Plan for Protection and Recovery Program (Iriomote cat)	Article 45 of the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry Agency), etc.	Established for contributing to the appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program.	The goals, areas, contents, and other necessary matters to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of the protection and recovery program
Okinawa Promotion and Development Plan	Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion and Development of Okinawa	Okinawa Prefecture	A plan about the directions that promotion of Okinawa should take and basic measures to be taken, as set pursuant to the Basic Policy on Promotion and Development of Okinawa, set by the national government.	With the aim set for shaping fundamental conditions for Okinawa's self-reliant development and building a prosperous community, the plan states the directions and approaches to promotion.
Miyako-Yaeyama Regional Forestry Plan	Article 5 of the Forest Act	Okinawa Prefecture	A 10-year plan, developed every five years, on private forests in the Miyako-Yaeyama Forest Planning Zone that states the goals of forest development and conservation of private forests, scheduled volumes of logging, afforestation, etc.	The plan defines the boundaries of forest areas to be covered, goals of forest development and conservation by the function of each forest, policies on measures to control forest disease and pest damage, etc.

5.e. Property Management Plan or Other Management System

5.e.1. Management plan for the nominated property

The Natural World Heritage Nominated Property Comprehensive Management Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Management Plan”) will be developed for conserving and managing the natural environment of the nominated property, which boasts extremely diverse and unique value, both in the present and the future.

The Management Plan is intended to clarify the basic policies for the operation of systems and the promotion of various projects so that the administrative organs charged with systems concerning conservation of the nominated property can manage the nominated property in a proper and smooth way, while ensuring close mutual collaboration and cooperation with the relevant agencies, local residents, related businesses from the tourism,

agricultural, forestry and other industrial sectors, researchers, NPOs, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “stakeholders”). An outline of the Management Plan is provided below. The entire text of the Management Plan is also attached to Appendix 1.

a. Scope of application of the management plan

For conserving the natural environment of the nominated property, it is necessary to take such actions as securing continuity of endemic or threatened species habitats and enhancing buffer functions. For that reason, the Management Plan will set the “surrounding area” around the nominated property and buffer zones. The scope of the Management Plan will cover the nominated property, buffer zones, and surrounding areas.

b. Management framework and structure

The Management Plan will set an overall objective, management policies, and other comprehensive matters common in four regions containing the nominated property. Further, in light of characteristic features and challenges of respective regions, the Management Plan will draw up regional action plans that lay out goals and concrete contents of measures to be taken. In addition to properly implementing the protective measures described in 5.c and conserving the outstanding value of the nominated property, the administrative organs and stakeholders will collectively carry out a series of conservation and management efforts, the main examples being measures to control alien species and measures concerning rare species, in accordance with the Management Plan. Sections 5.e.2 to 5.e.4 describe the structure designed for that purpose (see also 3.1.e. ; Figure 3-2).

c. Basic management approaches and measures

• Conservation of the natural environment

The administrative organs charged with the various protection systems listed in 5.c will protect values relevant to Criteria (ix) and (x) through appropriate operation of the systems. The administrative organs and local stakeholders will present, in an active collaboration and cooperation, basic policies and directions of concrete measures of each effort, including rare species protection and recovery; elimination and mitigation of alien species impacts; balanced coordination with industry; appropriate use and ecotourism; participation and collaboration of local communities; and effective monitoring, so as to promote conservation and management.

• Implementation of adaptive conservation and management

The implementing bodies of adaptive conservation and management will conduct monitoring in order to appropriately understand changes in the natural environment resulting from the implementation of conservation and management measures, scientifically assessing the findings in accordance with the advice from experts, and reflecting the outcomes in measures to be taken thereafter.

5.e.2. Scientific Committee on Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island natural World Heritage nominated property

In the process of managing the nominated property, it is necessary to monitor activities, assess the findings, and ensure that feedback is appropriately applied, based on the latest scientific knowledge. To that end, a Scientific Committee on Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island: Natural World Heritage Nominated Property and Local Working Groups composed of experts and other persons well versed in the region's nature, are established as a body from which to seek expert advice in the course of formulating and revising the Management Plan, and implementing a range of projects.

5.e.3. Regional Liaison Committee and sub-local meetings on Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island natural World Heritage nominated property

Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island extend across many administrative areas containing 12 municipalities within two prefectures. All the islands are inhabited, and many people reside and live around the nominated property. As the environment in which the threatened and endemic species representing heritage value occur is situated adjacent to, or in some cases overlaps the locations where the residents live and industrial activities take place, coordination with the lives of residents and industry is imperative; in other words, the nominated property cannot be properly managed without understanding and cooperation from the residents.

Accordingly, a Regional Liaison Committee on Natural World Heritage Nominated Property (Regional Liaison Committee), composed of administrative organs, as well as four sub-local meetings, under the Regional Liaison Committee, composed of administrative organs, local governments, concerned bodies and NPOs, are established so that the nominated property can be conserved and managed with mutual role-sharing and cooperation in place.

5.e.4. Actions by respective agencies

The Ministry of the Environment, the Forestry Agency, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Kagoshima Prefecture, Okinawa Prefecture and local municipalities, and the organizations composing island-specific sub-local meetings established under the Regional Liaison Committee will, on the basis of decisions made by the aforementioned plans and committees, pursue their respective actions according to an appropriate division of roles.

5.f. Sources and Levels of Finance

The nominated property is managed by each of the managing authorities charged with the respective systems, facilities, etc. The sources and amounts of their funding, as well as the actions to be taken in FY2018 are summarized below.

5.f.1. Ministry of the Environment

National Parks and National Wildlife Protection Areas are managed by the Ministry of the Environment, with an annual budget of approximately 543,223,000 yen (approx. 5.43 million dollars). National Parks are managed jointly with respective prefectures.

The budget covers the following items:

- Establishment of adaptive conservation management framework
- Protection and recovery of the National Endangered Species, such as Amami rabbit, Okinawa rail, and Iriomote cat.
- Patrol operation and awareness-raising program to prevent illegal poaching/picking of the National Endangered Species.
- Control of alien species, such as the small Indian mongoose and cane toad, and awareness-raising program.
- Review conservation methods of the spiny rats.
- Research on the status of the ground geckoes.
- Feral cat control measures in the rare species habitats (in forests) and promotion of appropriate pet cat care.
- Management and operation of Wildlife Conservation Centers and Ranger Offices for Nature Conservation.
- Facility maintenance, management, and awareness-raising related to protection and use of National Parks.

The budget is entirely funded by the national treasury and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

5.f.2. Forestry Agency

National forests in the Forest Ecosystem Reserves, which account for about 60% of the nominated property, and in the vicinity of the nominated property is managed by the Forestry Agency, with an annual budget amounting to approximately 12,079,000 yen (approx. 120,000 dollars).

The budget covers the following items:

- Nature restoration and vegetation recovery surveys, such as for mangrove forests.
- Rare species protection and management surveys and patrols.
- Removal and monitoring alien plant species, such as *Leucaena* and *Casuarina*, for the purpose of forest ecosystem restoration.

Other measures include creating vegetation distribution maps to serve as the basis for ensuring appropriate forest conservation and management in the nominated property, and examining forest management methods designed with attention paid to forest ecosystem conservation, at an annual cost of approximately 22,877,000 yen (approx. 229,000 dollars).

The budget is entirely funded by the national treasury and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

5.f.3. Agency for Cultural Affairs

The Agency for Cultural Affairs provides subsidy to support projects implemented by municipalities for the conservation and utilization of Natural Monuments, with an annual budget amounting to approximately 3,444,000 yen (approx. 34,440 dollars).

The following project related to the nominated property is being subsidized under this budget.

- Research carried out by Okinawa Prefecture on Ryukyu long-haired rat (*Diplothrix legata*).

The subsidy budget is entirely funded by the national treasury and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

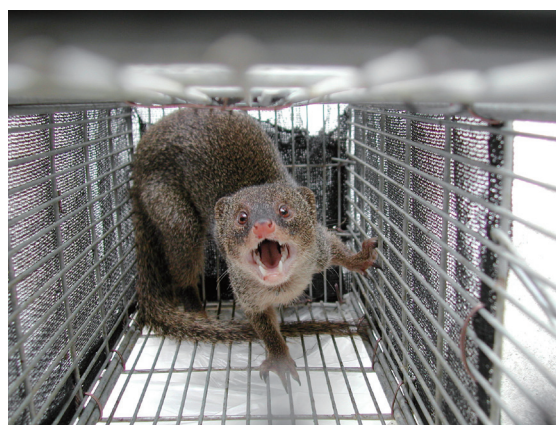
5.f.4. Kagoshima Prefecture

Kagoshima Prefecture engages in a range of actions, including those intended to maintain natural heritage value in the nominated property, strike a good balance between environment conservation and sustainable use for tourism, etc. and foster momentum among local residents, for which approximately 55 million yen (approx. 550,000 dollars) is budgeted annually (on the basis of FY2016 budget).

The budget covers the following items:

- Strengthening the heritage area's buffer function through biodiversity-friendly forest management and other actions
- Actions towards the implementation of public works with attention paid to the natural environment
- Developing rules and structures so as to make the use appropriate
- Protective measures for rare wild animals and plants
- Alien species control measures
- Promotion and awareness-raising about the inscription as a natural World Heritage site

The budget is funded by Amami Island Group promotion and development subsidies (e.g., 1/2 from national government funds, 1/2 from prefectural government funds) or solely by prefectural government funds; and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.



Mongoose control program and captured mongoose (Photo: JWRC, MOEJ)

5.f.5. Okinawa Prefecture

Okinawa Prefecture shares responsibility for development and conservation management of the nominated property with the Ministry of the Environment, with an annual budget amounting to approximately 266,882,000 yen (approx. 2.68 million dollars) on the basis of the FY2016 budget.

The budget covers the following items:

- Administering natural park facilities
- Building natural park facilities
- Developing and operating area-specific action plans
- Validating measures to prevent traffic accidents involving Iriomote cats
- Surveying the status of damage to rare species from feral cats, etc. and examining measures to address it
- Formulating frameworks for establishing center facilities intended to ensure appropriate use and utilization of the nominated property
- Promotion and awareness-raising about the inscription as a natural World Heritage site
- Alien species control measures (against mongooses, etc.)

The budget is funded by Okinawa promotion and development subsidies (e.g., 8/10 from national government funds, 2/10 from prefectural government funds) or solely by prefectural government funds; and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

5.f.6. Municipalities

Amami-Oshima Island (Amami City, Tatsugo Town, Setouchi Town, Yamato Village, and Uken Village)

The five municipalities with local government functions on Amami-Oshima Island are engaged in patrol operation to prevent illegal digging and picking, alien species eradication, and measures to control cats as an alien species, with public organizations working hand-in-hand with local residents. The municipalities also undertake promotion and awareness-raising efforts to further understanding the importance and preciousness of the natural environment of Amami-Oshima Island, and foster a mindset conducive to acting on one's own accord to conserve precious nature while ensuring symbiosis with nature. Approximately 34,962,000 yen (approx. 350,000 dollars) is budgeted annually.

The budget covers the following item:

- Amami-Oshima Nature Protection Council (patrolling, alien plant control, promotion and awareness-raising (creating brochures, placing signs))

The budget is funded by Amami Island Group growth strategy promotion subsidies (e.g., 5/10 from national government funds, 1/10 from prefectural government funds, 4/10 from municipal government funds); and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

The Amami Island Group, which includes Amami-Oshima Island, also has a special local public entity pursuant to Article 1-3 of the Local Autonomy Act—the Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands—that

was established to address common region-wide issues. As an effort to popularize and promote eco-tourism, the Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands works on formulating the overall concept for promoting Ecotourism of Amami Island Group, which sets policies for desirable eco-tourism, as well as on other actions, including developing eco-tour guides who are conscious about the region's nature and culture, and also capable of conveying their appeal, for all of which approximately 17,400,000 yen (approx. 170,000 dollars) is budgeted annually.

Tokunoshima Island (Tokunoshima Town, Isen Town, and Amagi Town)

The three municipalities with local government functions on Tokunoshima Island engage in rare species protection activities, including patrol operation to prevent illegal digging and picking, and measures to control cats and other alien species, with the initiative being taken by local residents. The municipalities also undertake promotion and awareness-raising efforts to further understanding the importance and preciousness of the natural environment of Tokunoshima Island, and foster a mindset conducive to acting on one's own accord to conserve the precious nature while ensuring symbiosis with nature. Approximately 33 million yen (approx. 330,000 dollars) is budgeted annually.

The budget covers the following items:

- Tokunoshima District Nature Protection Council (patrolling, alien plant control, promotion and awareness-raising (creating brochures, placing signs))
- Tokunoshima Three Towns Cat Control Council (Operation of shelter for feral cat captured or removed in rare species habitats (in forests), stray cat TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Return) activities, awareness-raising about how to properly take care of pet cats)

The budget is financed by town government funds, etc.; and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

In addition, actions being taken by the Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands described above also include activities on Tokunoshima Island.



Damselfly (*Rhipidolestes amamiensis*) (Photo: MOEJ)

Northern part of Okinawa Island (Kunigami Village, Ogimi Village, and Higashi Village)

The three villages in the northern part of Okinawa Island undertake promotion and awareness-raising efforts so that local residents may better understand the importance and preciousness of the natural environment of Yambaru, and foster a mindset conducive to acting on one's own accord to conserve the precious nature while ensuring symbiosis with nature. Approximately 19,929,000 yen (approx. 200,000 dollars) is budgeted annually.

The budget covers the following items:

- Projects for promotion of environmental conservation and beautification (cat control, etc.)
- Project for promotion and awareness-raising about the inscription as a natural World Heritage site
- Project for Okinawa rail ecology conservation
- Okinawa Rail Wild Forest management and administration costs
- Operation of the Yambaru Hands-On Nature Activity Committee

The budget is entirely financed by village government funds; and will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

Iriomote Island (Taketomi Town)

Taketomi Town engages in the protection of Iriomote cats and other rare species, takes measures to control alien species, and also undertakes promotion and awareness-raising efforts so that residents may better understand the importance and preciousness of the natural environment of Iriomote Island, and foster a mindset conducive to acting on one's own accord to conserve the precious nature while ensuring symbiosis with nature. Approximately 26,997,000 yen (approx. 270,000 dollars) is budgeted annually.

The budget covers the following items:

- Taketomi Town Appropriate Pet Care Promotion Project (stray cat control measures)
- Iriomote Cat Traffic Accident Occurrence Prevention Liaison Conference (joint secretariat with the Ministry of the Environment)
- Beach cleanup activities, natural recreation forest cleanup activities (island resident volunteer activity cost)
- Biodiversity conservation and promotion project (measures to control alien species, including the Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*), boar, and alien frogs)
- Environmental conservation awareness-raising project (promotion and awareness-raising), etc.

The budget will be secured into the future to continue supporting necessary projects.

5.g. Sources of Expertise and Training in Conservation and Management Techniques

5.g.1. Ministry of the Environment

The Ministry of the Environment's Naha Nature Conservation Office and the respective Ranger Offices for Nature Conservation in Amami, Tokunoshima, Yambaru and Iriomote are staffed with personnel versed in nature protection systems and protection and management techniques required for the purpose of conservation management of the nominated property. They provide expert advice to construction businesses and program operators in the process of performing permit and authorization services under the National Parks Act and other applicable acts and regulations, etc., and services associated with protection and recovery program for National Endangered Species.

They also engage in other activities, including promotion and awareness-raising activities in the form of planning and operating nature viewing tours.

As needed in the course of their services, they ensure a higher level of expertise by seeking advice from experts in universities and other external sources (Table 5-7).



Okinawa Ishikawa's frog (*Odorrana ishikawae*) (Photo: MOEJ)

Table 5-7: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Amami Rare Species Protection and Recovery Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the protection and recovery of the Amami woodcock, Amami thrush and Amami rabbit
Yambaru Rare Species Protection and Recovery Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the protection and recovery of the Okinawa rail, Okinawa woodpecker and Yanbaru long-armed scarab beetle
Iriomote Cat Protection and Recovery Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the protection and recovery of the Iriomote cat
Liaison Committee on Prevention of Traffic Accident Occurrences Involving Iriomote Cats	Conducts reviews, communication and coordination on protective measures taken by the organizations concerned and local residents for the purpose of preventing occurrences of traffic accidents involving Iriomote cats (held jointly with Taketomi Town)
Yaeyama Region Liaison Committee on Measures to Protect Crested Serpent Eagles	Conducts reviews, communication and coordination on crested serpent eagle surveys and protective measures in the Yaeyama region
Conference on Measures to Control Cane Toads, etc. in the Yaeyama Region	Conducts reviews on projects for controlling cane toads, white-lipped treefrogs and other animals in the Yaeyama region
Amami-Oshima Island Mongoose Control Project Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the mongoose control project on Amami-Oshima Island
Northern Okinawa Region Mongoose Control Project Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the mongoose control project in the northern Okinawa region (held jointly with Okinawa Prefecture)

5.g.2. Forestry Agency

The Kyushu Regional Forest Office is staffed with personnel versed in programs, techniques and other matters required for the purpose of conservation management of forests and wild animals and plants, as well as the appropriate management of national forests pursuant to the Forest Act, the Act Concerning Utilization of National Forest Land and other applicable laws and regulations. They provide expert advice required in the process of implementing related services.

In the course of performing the protection and management of Forest Ecosystem Reserves, and implementing protective measures for the Iriomote cat and other endangered species of wild fauna and flora, projects for controlling alien plant species, etc., they exercise a higher level of expertise by, for instance, seeking advice from experts in universities and other external sources (Table 5-8).

Table 5-8: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Amami Gunto Forest Ecosystem Reserve Conservation Management Committee	Conducts reviews (conservation management plans, administration and utilization) for the purpose of appropriately conserving and managing the valuable forest ecosystem of the Amami Island Group into the future
Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Reserve Conservation Management Committee	Conducts reviews (conservation management plans, administration and utilization) for the purpose of appropriately conserving and managing the valuable forest ecosystem of Iriomote Island into the future

5.g.3. Agency for Cultural Affairs

The Agency for Cultural Affairs is principal national agency in charge of protection of cultural properties in Japan. As it does not have its own local offices unlike the Ministry of the Environment and the Forestry Agency, the conservation and management of the nominated property has been implemented by the Board of Education of Okinawa Prefecture and Kagoshima Prefecture. Based on the Act on Protection and Cultural Properties, the Agency for Cultural Affairs manages services associated with permit and authorization related to Natural Monument and provides professional advice on project for the conservation and utilization of Natural Monuments implemented by municipalities. It also ensures a high level of expertise by obtaining advice from external experts as necessary.

5.g.4. Kagoshima Prefecture

The Nature Conservation Division, Environment and Forestry Affairs Department, Kagoshima Prefecture, and the Hygiene and Environment Office, Oshima Branch Office are staffed with personnel versed in nature protection programs as well as protection and management techniques required for the purpose of conservation management of the nominated property, and engage in rare wild fauna and flora protection and recovery projects, alien species control projects, and services associated with permit and authorization under the National Parks Act. As needed in the course of their services, it also ensures a high level of expertise by obtaining advice from external experts as necessary. (Table 5-9).

Table 5-9: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Amami Island Group Natural World Heritage Nominated Property Conservation and Utilization Review Conference	Conducts reviews on environmental conservation, sustainable use and other actions required for inscription, such as public works with attention paid to the natural environment and steps to make the use for tourism appropriate.
Kagoshima Prefecture Review Committee on Rare Wild Fauna and Flora Protection Measures	Established for the purpose of engaging in the selection and other actions for the designation of rare wild fauna and flora as prescribed in the Kagoshima Prefectural Ordinance to Protect Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora.
Kagoshima Prefecture Alien Species Control Measures Review Committee	Examines measures required for the purpose of preventing damage caused by alien species on ecosystems, people's lives and health, or agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in the prefecture.
Council on Amami Island Group Rare Wild Fauna and Flora Protection Measures	Organizations concerned are engaged in discussing necessary measures with respect to the protection of rare species so as to ensure the maintenance and improvement of value held by the Amami Island Group as a Natural World Heritage nominated property.
Feral Dog and Feral Cat Control Measures Review Conference (Amami district, Tokunoshima district)	Organizations concerned are engaged in examining measures against feral cats that prey on rare species, and against supply sources of feral cats.

5.g.5. Okinawa Prefecture

The Nature Conservation Division, Department of Environmental Affairs is staffed with personnel versed in nature protection programs as well as protection and management techniques required for the purpose of conservation management of the nominated property, and engages in services related to the building and management of natural park facilities, endangered species of wild fauna and flora protection and recovery programs, and alien species control projects. As needed in the course of their services, it also ensures a high level of expertise by obtaining advice from external experts as necessary (Table 5-10).

Table 5-10: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Iriomote Cat Traffic Accident Prevention Measures Review Committee	Conducts reviews concerning the basic plan formulation aimed at taking steps to prevent traffic accidents involving Iriomote cats, such as examining validation testing methods and effects validation methods, in order to enhance measures to address traffic accidents involving Iriomote cats.
Feral Dog and Feral Cat Control Measures Review Committee	Conducts reviews concerning methods of estimating feral dog and feral cat populations in forests that pose concerns about predation damage on rare wild animals, and concerning the actual state of predation damage and effective measures to address it, in order to conserve heritage value in the Yambaru region.
Northern Okinawa Region Mongoose Control Project Review Conference	Conducts reviews on the mongoose control project in the northern Okinawa region (held jointly with the Ministry of the Environment).
Alien Species Control Review Committee	Conduct reviews concerning alien species control guidelines, establishment of alien species control action plans, effective capture methods of green anoles, etc.

5.g.6. Municipalities

For the continuous conservation of the World Heritage property, obtaining cooperation from local communities is essential. In particular, administrative districts (municipalities) are expected to play a central role. Examples of pioneering initiatives by municipalities include the biodiversity conservation strategy (Amami-Oshima Regional Biodiversity Strategy) developed by Amami-Oshima Island's five municipalities, and the regional biodiversity conservation plan (Ogimi Village Regional Collaboration-Based Conservation Action Plan) worked out by Ogimi Village, an administrative district located in the northern part of Okinawa Island. Other conservation measures are also underway by Amami-Oshima Island's five municipalities and Tokunoshima Island's three municipalities, including the enforcement of an Ordinance for the Protection of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the designation of species to be protected under the Ordinance. Furthermore, all administrative districts in the nominated property have designated Natural Monuments and enacted an Ordinance for the Protection of Cultural Properties as well as an Ordinance for the Proper Keeping of Domestic Cats. In the future, a variety of other initiatives including the removal of alien species and public relations activities will be launched with the aim of conserving the region's nature and raising environmental conservation awareness.

Amami-Oshima Island

The offices of the five municipalities on Amami-Oshima Island are engaged in protective activities that only locals can deliver, with dedicated personnel placed so as to ensure the supply of accurate information to local residents about conservation management of the nominated property, and cooperation with other public organizations. The Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands is also active in offering entry-level instruction and training for people who wish to become eco-tour guides.

Table 5-11: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Amami-Oshima Nature Protection Council	Mainly engages in protective measures for species designated under the Ordinance to Protect Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora (2013) (patrolling for prevention of illegal digging and picking), alien plant control measures, and promotion and awareness-raising activities.
Amami-Oshima Island Cat Control Council	Conducts reviews on feral cat TNR activities near settlements, and appropriate pet cat care for the purpose of protecting Amami rabbits, etc.
Amami Island Group Ecotourism Promotion Council	Engages in preparation of the overall concept for promoting Ecotourism of the Amami Island Group and an eco-tour guide accreditation program.

Tokunoshima Island

The offices of the three municipalities on Tokunoshima Island are engaged in protective activities that only locals can deliver, with dedicated personnel placed so as to ensure the supply of accurate information to local residents about conservation management of the nominated property, and cooperation with other public organizations. The Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands is also active in offering entry-level instruction and training for people who wish to become eco-tour guides.



Sword-tailed newt (*Cynops ensicauda*)
(Photo: MOEJ)

Table 5-12: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Tokunoshima District Nature Protection Council	Mainly reviews protective measures for species designated under the Ordinance to Protect Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora (2012) (patrolling for prevention of illegal digging and picking, alien plant control measures and promotion and awareness-raising activities).
Three Tokunoshima Villages Cat Control Council	Conducts reviews on feral cat TNR activities near settlements, shelter operation of feral cats captured and removed in the rare species habitats (in forests) and appropriate pet cat care for the purpose of protecting Amami rabbits, etc.
Amami Island Group Ecotourism Promotion Council [second mention]	Engages in preparation of the overall concept for promoting Ecotourism of the Amami Island Group, guide training, etc.

Northern part of Okinawa Island

The offices of the three municipalities in the northern part of Okinawa Island encourage protective activities that only locals can deliver, with dedicated personnel placed so as to ensure the supply of accurate information to local residents about conservation management of the nominated property, and cooperation with other public organizations.

Table 5-13: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Okinawa Rail Wild Forest Management and Operation Conference	Conducts reviews and discussions about the management and operation of Okinawa Rail Forest, a protective shelter for the Okinawa rail.
Yambaru District Cat Control Measures Liaison Conference	Engages in reviews, communication and coordination with respect to feral cat control measures taken by the organizations concerned.
Four-Party Conference on the Okinawa Rail Ecology Exhibition and Learning Facilities	Conducts reviews and discussions about promotion and awareness-raising about Okinawa rail protection, individual bird care, facilities management and operation.

Iriomote Island

The office of Taketomi Town engages in protective activities that only locals can deliver, with personnel placed so as to ensure the implementation of nature protection programs required for conservation management of the nominated property, conservation management in general, the supply of accurate information to local residents, and cooperation with other public organizations.



Freshwater crab (*Ryukyum yaeyamense*)
(Photo: MOEJ)

Table 5-14: Review conferences for implementation purposes

Name of the review conference, etc.	Description
Iriomote Appropriate Pet Keeping Promotion Conference	Conducts reviews on proper pet keeping on Iriomote Island, in order to prevent impacts caused by domestic cats on Iriomote cats.
Iriomote Cat Traffic Accident Occurrence Prevention Liaison Conference	Engages in reviews, communication and coordination with respect to protective measures taken by the organizations concerned and local residents, in order to prevent occurrences of traffic accidents involving Iriomote cats (held jointly with the Ministry of the Environment).
Taketomi Town Nature Protection Council	Holds deliberations about revisions of the Taketomi Town Natural Environment Protection Ordinance, a protection system designed to contribute to the protection and management of the ecosystem and biodiversity of Taketomi Town.

5.g.7. Universities, etc.

Amami-Oshima Island is home to the Amami Branch of the Research Center for the Pacific Islands of Kagoshima University; the northern part of Okinawa Island is home to Yona Field of the Subtropical Field Science Center of the University of the Ryukyus and; Iriomote Island is home to the Iriomote Station of the Tropical Biosphere Research Center of the University of the Ryukyus and the Okinawa Regional Research Center of Tokai University. All being research center facilities available for use by researchers and students, these facilities contribute to driving research activities for which this region serves as a field study site and to accumulating information on the natural environment.

5.h. Visitor Facilities and Infrastructure

The numbers of visitors to the four islands containing the nominated property are as shown in 4.b (iv).

5.h.1. Local museums and visitor centers

Tourism facilities include the following establishments, which are open and available for tourist visitors.

5.h.1.1. Wildlife Conservation Centers

Wildlife Conservation Centers have been established by the Ministry of the Environment on Amami-Oshima Island, in the northern part of Okinawa Island, and on Iriomote Island. These facilities are built as centers designed to offer explanations to, and engage in promotion and awareness-raising activities for, visitors through exhibitions, videos, etc. about National Endangered Species and other wild living organisms unique to the region, as well as to push forward protection and breeding projects, survey research and other such activities for National Endangered Species of in a comprehensive way. These centers organize a wide variety of activities, including themed exhibits, talks, craft activities and nature viewing tours, so that everyone, adults and children alike, can gain an understanding and knowledge of the nature of the respective regions in a fun way. Their exhibition facilities are made open to the public free of charge.

Table 5-15-1: Amami Wildlife Conservation Center

Location	551 Koshinohata, Ongachi, Yamato-son, Oshima-gun, Kagoshima
Year opened	2000 (<i>Heisei</i> 12)
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition building 508.47m² (total floor area) • Research building 297.75m² (total floor area)
Exhibition details	Wall picture; exhibition rooms (insect section, plant section, survey research section); themed exhibition room; library, etc.
Staff size	8 persons

Table 5-15-2: Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center: Ufugi Nature Museum

Location	Hiji 263-1, Kunigami-son, Kunigami-gun, Okinawa
Year opened	1999 (<i>Heisei</i> 11)
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition building 605.88m² (total floor area) • Research building 264.20m² (total floor area)
Exhibition details	Exhibition room (nature and living creatures in Yambaru); audiovisual and lecture room; library, etc.
Staff size	7 persons

Table 5-15-3: Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center

Location	Komi, Taketomi-cho, Yaeyama-gun, Okinawa
Year opened	1995 (<i>Heisei</i> 7)
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main building 704.22m² (total floor area) • Quarantine building 67.00m² (total floor area)
Exhibition details	Exhibition room (natural environment and wild living organisms on Iriomote Island; explanations on the Iriomote cat); videos; library, etc.
Staff size	6 persons



Amami thrush (*Zoothera dauma major*)
(Photo: MOEJ)

5.h.1.2. Other related facilities

Table 5-16: Other related facilities (The entity in brackets is the operator)

Amami-Oshima Island	Amami Park (Kagoshima Prefecture) Amami Museum of History and Folklore (Amami City) Amami Nature Observation Forest (Tatsugo Town) Amami Museum (Amami City) “Kuroshio no Mori” Mangrove Park (Amami City) Uken Village Museum of History and Folklore (Uken Village) Amami Seaside Museum (Amami City) Amami Forestpolis (Yamato Village) Setouchi Town Folk Museum (Setouchi Town)
Tokunoshima Island	Tokunoshima Town Folk Museum (Tokunoshima Town) Amagi Town History, Culture, Industry and Science Center Yui-no-Yakata (Amagi Town) Isen Town Museum of History and Folklore (Isen Town)
Northern part of Okinawa Island	Okinawa Rail Ecology Center (Kunigami Village) Yanbaru Discovery Forest (Kunigami Village) Yanbaru Forest Toy Museum (Kunigami Village) Ogimi Village Basho-fu Hall (Ogimi Village) Higashi Museum (Higashi Village) Oku Yanbaru no Sato Museum (Kunigami Village) Fukuji Dam Museum (Okinawa General Bureau Northern Dam Administration Office of the Cabinet Office) Taiho Dam Museum Bunagaya House (Okinawa General Bureau Northern Dam Administration Office of the Cabinet Office)
Iriomote Island	Iriomote Tropical Tree Breeding Technical Garden (Forest Tree Breeding Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute) Iriomote Island Eco-Tourism Center (Iriomote Island Ecotourism Association) Taketomi Town Remote Island Development Center (Taketomi Town) Iriomote Handicraft Center (Taketomi Textiles Cooperative Association)

5.h.2. Trails, guided tourism, signage, printed information

Pursuant to National Park Plans, the nominated property has trails, roads, etc. planned and built appropriately.

5.h.2.1. Trails, etc.

The nominated property is equipped with the following major trails and recreation site, which are subject to appropriate management.



Yambaru Wildlife Conservation Center and its exhibitions (Photo: JWRC)

Table 5-17-1: Amami-Oshima Island

Major trails	
Yuwandake Climbing Trail	There is a boardwalk built that takes one from the northern side of Mt. Yuwandake all the way to its summit. Wind-beaten shrubs typically found in the alpine belt of Amami-Oshima Island dominate the forest here, in which plants endemic to Mt. Yuwandake can also be seen.
Recreation sites	
Fukumoto Recreation Site	A recreation site that can be a useful base for visitors coming to experience nature in the forests and streams, etc. surrounding it, including Mt. Yuwandake, and that provides easy opportunities to have a hands-on encounter with nature in a forest environment setting. A camp site and an athletic field are also adjacent to the park.
Yuwandake Recreation Site	Located at the entrance to the climb to Mt. Yuwandake, it has a lookout where visitors can enjoy a view of the subtropical evergreen broadleaved forest in the core region.

Table 5-17-2: Northern part of Okinawa Island

Major trails	
Mt. Ibudake Trail	A trail that offers a scenic walk through natural surroundings of the subtropical evergreen broadleaved forest and ruins of bygone lives. The Okinawa rail and other endemic or rare animals and plants make a habitat here.
Mt. Yonahadake Trail	A trail that connects to the summit of Mt. Yonahadake, the highest mountain on Okinawa Island, situated in the core of the Yambaru region. The Okinawa rail and other endemic or rare animals and plants make a habitat here.
• Mt. Nekumachijidake/Mt. Shioya-fuji Trail	A trail for climbing Mt. Nekumachijidake and Mt. Shioya-fuji, which are limestone mountains. Rare plants that are unique to limestone terrains grow here.

Table 5-17-3: Iriomote Island

Major trails	
Iriomote Trans-Island Trail	A climbing trail that runs across Iriomote Island, starting from Gunkan-iwa Rock upstream of the Urauchi River and leading to Otomi. The magnificent nature of Iriomote Island can be savored in the thick of its subtropical evergreen broadleaved forest formed by trees like <i>Castanopsis</i> and <i>Quercus miyagii</i> . It offers views of mighty waterfalls, including Mariudu Falls, Kampire Falls, and Mayagusuku Falls.
Recreation sites	
Nishi-Funatsuki Recreation Site	It has a lookout built on Otomi Forestry Road (Iriomote Trans-Island Trail), which commands a sweeping view overlooking a mangrove forest, among the largest in Japan, alongside the Nakama River.
Omija Recreation Site	Located at the mouth of the Omija River, it has a boardwalk built for scenic views of a mangrove forest that is home to an abundance of benthic organisms, as well as a lookout with a sweeping tideland view.
Komi Recreation Site	It has a boardwalk built for scenic views of the Komi <i>Heritiera littoralis</i> communities and mangrove forests. Looking from the ocean to the inland, the transition of the forests from the grey mangrove (<i>Avicennia marina</i>) to Asiatic mangrove (<i>Rhizophora stylosa</i>), <i>Kandelia obovata</i> and the oriental mangrove (<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i>) can be observed.

5.h.2.2. Guided tourism, Signage, and Printed information

The state of guided tourism on the respective islands is described below.

Amami-Oshima Island

About 420,000 inbound visitors and travelers come to Amami-Oshima Island per year. In terms of the pattern of tourism, there are group sightseeing tours using a large bus on one hand, while the number of individual tourists renting a car to go sightseeing is growing. Major guided tours include canoeing trips in mangrove forests and night wildlife watching tours. There are a total of 61 guides, inland and marine put together, registered with the Amami-Oshima Island Eco-Tour Guide Liaison Council, most of whom are individual business operators and there are accordingly few major businesses hiring multiple guides, except for diving business operators.

Tokunoshima Island

About 130,000 inbound visitors and travelers come to Tokunoshima Island per year. Only 14 guides are registered with the Tokunoshima Island Eco-Tour Guide Liaison Council. Other than diving businesses, there is no business operator that makes profits whose main line of business is guiding.

Northern part of Okinawa Island

While the number of tourists entering Okinawa Island has been rising each year, the percentage of those tourists who visit this region remains relatively small, given the long distance from Naha Airport: it is estimated that in FY2014, approximately 520,000 Japanese tourists from other prefectures visited the northern part of Okinawa Island. In the three villages in the northern part of Okinawa Island, there are 20 ecotourism business operators and 85 guides, few of whom are full-time guides. Major guided tours include forest walks and casual canoe trip tours. Non-local operators also offer eco-tours in the three villages of the northern part of Okinawa in the form of a day trip.

Iriomote Island

The annual number of visitors to Iriomote Island totaled 387,952 (in FY2015) and has been on the rise since New Ishigaki Airport opened in 2013. In the eastern district of Iriomote Island, many people take a bus tour and there are more wintertime visitors. In the western district, on the other hand, the number of visitors rises in summertime and many of them take an eco-tour or go snorkeling, diving, etc. There are 67 tourism business operators and 136 guides (in 2014) that offer tours designed to experience nature, and the number of such businesses and guides has doubled in the past 10 years (FY2013 Report on Appropriate Mountain Climb Trail Use Promotion in Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park).

5.h.3. Accommodations

Amami-Oshima Island

As of August 2015, there are 106 accommodation establishments on Amami-Oshima Island (Amami Oshima Tourism and Product Association). The total capacity of those accommodations is 5,800 per day. While the number of inbound visitors and travelers on Amami-Oshima Island has been on the increase recently due to a low-cost carrier (LCC) now serving the island, its accommodation capacity remains sufficient, with the largest number of monthly inbound visitors and travelers thus far being 46,669 (in August 2015). There is one camp site in the buffer zone (Yamato Village), along with two camp sites in the coastal area.

Tokunoshima Island

There are 33 accommodation establishments on Tokunoshima Island as of August 2015 (Amami Oshima Tourism and Product Association). The total capacity of those accommodations is 1,059 per day. While the number of inbound visitors and travelers on Tokunoshima Island has been on the increase recently due to lower airfares and sea fares through the use of Amami Islands promotion subsidies, its accommodation capacity remains sufficient, with the largest number of monthly inbound visitors and travelers thus far being 13,638 (in August 2015).

There are four camp sites in the coastal area outside the buffer zone. Northern part of Okinawa Island. There are 41 accommodation establishments in the northern part of Okinawa Island (surveys by the respective village offices). The total capacity of those accommodations is 1,476 per day. Of all visitors to the Yambaru region, 70% are day-trippers from accommodations located outside of the Yambaru region (FY2013 Tourism Statistics and Actual Status Survey Report (Okinawa Prefecture)). There is a large resort hotel (capacity: 550 per day) in Kunigami Village, in which roughly two-thirds of people staying overnight in Kunigami Village take up lodgings. Apart from that hotel, most of the accommodations are relatively small, with the capacity ranging from 5 to 30 per day. In addition to the accommodation establishments, camp sites are also used (one within the buffer zone and one outside the buffer zone).

Iriomote Island

As camping is prohibited on Iriomote Island, except in a designated camp site, most tourists stay in the accommodations on the island. There are 30 accommodation establishments on Iriomote Island, but are located outside of the nominated property and outside the buffer zone (December 2012 Chamber of Commerce and Industry Directory).

5.h.4. Restaurants, eating and drinking establishments, etc.

There are 1,102 wholesale/retail stores and eating/drinking establishments on Amami-Oshima Island, 390 on Tokunoshima Island, 58 in the northern part of Okinawa Island, and 32 on Iriomote Island, all of which are located outside of the nominated property.

5.i. Policies and Programmes Related to the Presentation and Promotion of the Property

In order to maintain human activities in the social, production and economic spheres in a sustainable manner in future years, while appropriately managing the heritage value of the nominated property, actions will be taken proactively with a view toward promoting the region in harmony with nature through ecotourism, etc. To that end, the promotional and awareness-raising activities now being carried out to make ecotourism approaches and rules known to island visitors and business operators will be continued in the years to come as well, along with efforts to train nature guides as supporters of such activities.

In the nominated property, information on the value of nature and other related subjects is offered to users in the forms of exhibitions at visitor facilities, explanations given by guides, and signs placed in major spots along trails or in recreation sites and other utilization facilities, as described in 5.h.

5.j. Staffing Levels and Expertise

The number of professionals and the technical and maintenance staff sizes in the nominated property are as stated below.

Ministry of the Environment

Naha Nature Conservation Office: Natural Environment Development Department: 2 persons
National Park Department: 3 persons
Wildlife Department: 4 persons
Amami Ranger Office for Nature Conservation: 5 persons
Tokunoshima Ranger Office for Nature Conservation: 2 persons
Yambaru Ranger Office for Nature Conservation: 5 persons
Iriomote Ranger Office for Nature Conservation: 5 persons

Forestry Agency

Kyushu Regional Forest Office: Planning and Conservation Department: 5 persons
Kagoshima District Forest Office: 4 persons
Naze Forest Office: 1 person
Tokunoshima Forest Office : 1 person
Okinawa District Forest Office: 3 persons
Takae Forest Office : 1 person
Ohara Forest Office : 1 person
Sonai Forest Office : 1 person
Iriomote Forest Ecosystem Conservation Center: 3 persons

Kagoshima Prefecture

Environment and Forestry Affairs Department: 1 person

Nature Conservation Division: 7 persons

Hygiene and Environment Office, Oshima Branch Office: 2 persons

Cultural Assets Division: 3 persons

Okinawa Prefecture

Nature Conservation Division, Department of Environmental Affairs: 17 persons

Cultural Assets Division, Board of Education: 1 person

Municipalities

Amami-Oshima Island

- Amami City: World Natural Heritage Promotion Office, Environmental Measure Section: 3 persons
 - Sumiyo General Branch Office: 1 person
 - Kasari General Branch Office: 1 person
- Yamato Village: General Affairs and Planning Division: 1 person Taxation Division: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Uken Village: General Affairs and Planning Division: 1 person Fisheries Division: 1 person Taxation Division: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Setouchi Town: Setouchi Board of Education Department of Social Education World Natural Heritage Setouchi Promotion Office: 2 persons Setouchi Towns Man Affairs Division: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Tatsugo Town: General Affairs and Planning Division: 1 person Consumer & Environment Protection Division: 1 person
- Amami Promotion Division, Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands: 3 persons

Tokunoshima Island

- Tokunoshima Town: Planning Division: 1 person Resident Life Department: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Amagi Town: Planning Division: 1 person Resident Life Department: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Isen Town: Kyura-Machi Tourism Division: 1 person Kyura-Machi Tourism Department: 1 person (responsible for cats)
- Amami Promotion Division, Wide Area Administration Association of Amami Islands [second mention]

Northern part of Okinawa Island

- Kunigami Village World Natural Heritage Promotion Division: 3 persons
- Kunigami Village Board of Education, Education Division: 1 person
- Ogimi Village Planning and Tourism Division: 2 persons
- Higashi Village Planning and Tourism Division: 2 persons

Iriomote Island

- Taketomi Town: Natural Environment Division: 2 persons
Commerce, Industry and Tourism Division: 2 persons
Cultural Properties Section, Board of Education: 3 persons

*: As the Agency for Cultural Affairs does not have local offices, no staff is stationed in the local areas of the nominated property (There are three officers in charge of Natural Monuments designated as cultural properties under the Act on Protection of Cultural Properties).



Red bayberry (*Myrica rubra*) (Photo: MOEJ)