

Designation:
Ogasawara National Park
Location:
Ogasawara, Tokyo
Year Initiated: 2002

Community Conference and Science Committee for Ogasawara Islands World Heritage Nomination

The Conference and Committee are developing a comprehensive plan for conservation and management of the entire islands, including alien species control, vegetation rehabilitation and more, with coordination and through consensus building among local stakeholders, related agencies and academic experts.



Dry scrub in Ani-jima Island



Wild azalea (*Rhododendron boninense*)



Ogasawara buzzard (*Buteo buteo toyoshimai*)

Ogasawara

Goal

Restore the ecological health that allows indigenous evolution and transition, by creating a mechanism for coexistence between the Island people and the natural environments and assisting the natural recovery.



Ogasawara National Park includes most part of the Ogasawara Islands, where large and small 30 islands, such as Chichi-jima and Haha-jima Islands, are spread southwards at the 1,000 km south of Tokyo. Located in the subtropical climate zone and isolated from the continent, the Park has academic value with unique islands ecosystems that support many endemic species including the Bonin flying fox (*Pteropus pselaphon*) and Munin-nobotan (*Melastoma tetramerum*). The Park also features a colorful underwater

view with coral reefs and tropical fish.

In nearly all islands, however, human-induced colonization and expansion of non-native species are becoming serious, causing a crisis of the Islands native ecosystems and biodiversity. Therefore, the areas of disturbed ecosystem or reduced endemic species because of alien species were prioritized for immediate actions. Efforts for restoring the unique islands ecosystem are underway.

Invasion of alien species are threatening the survival of endemic and native species.



A green anole lizard (*Anolis carolinensis*) preying on rare insect species.



Soil erosion and vegetation loss due to wild goat grazing and trampling.



A forest with diminished biodiversity by the infestation of a non-native species, the Akagi (*Bischofia javanica*)

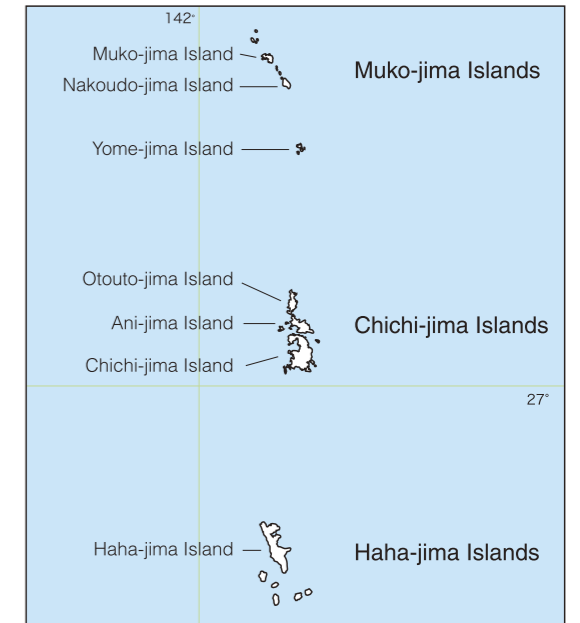
Approaches

- ▶ Rehabilitate the native ecosystems disturbed by alien species →①②③
- ▶ Preserve the remnants of endemic and rare species in the oceanic islands →①②③
- ▶ Create a regional society co-inhabiting with the natural environment through ecological restoration →③

To recover healthy island ecosystems, strategies for reducing alien species impacts are being developed. Ongoing actions include alien species control and feasibility testing on the recovery of native species. Rule-making for sustainable resource use and other community efforts intend to create a regional society in harmony with the natural environments.



Cape Minami-zaki, Haha-jima Island



① Feasibility testing on alien species extermination

The Ogasawara Islands Ecosystem has experienced serious threats by introduced species; wild goat grazing and trampling have destroyed vegetation; and green anole predation has reduced rare insect species. After studying the ecology of these alien species, feasibility testing is being carried out to identify the techniques for effective control and restoration.



The experimental site that has been fenced to exclude wild goats for vegetation recovery in the Otouto-jima Island.



Newly developed adhesive trap for green anole lizards.



② Implementing alien species removal

Based on knowledge gained from the feasibility studies, alien species elimination programs were initiated - herbicide control of akagi trees, outcompeting the native flora in northern Haha-jima Island, began over a wide area; and trapping wild pigs and the bull frog (*Rana catesbeiana*) is underway for their complete removal from the Otouto Island.



Killing akagi trees by driving in herbicide soaked corks at the basal area



A cage trap to capture wild pigs



Traps for bull frogs

③ Developing a regional society that pursues alien species control

To keep alien seeds and other pests from spreading to other islands, travelers are required to check and scrub soil from shoes at docks. Local volunteers are working on the removal of alien plants.



Scrubbing off mud from shoes



Eradication of alien plants by local volunteers