

Strengthening pathway management of alien species in island ecosystems

Sponsor: The Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J)
Co-sponsors: World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan (WWF-Japan)
Wild Bird Society of Japan (WBSJ)
Save the Dugong Campaign Center (SDCC)
Ramsar Network Japan
Japan Wildlife Conservation Society (JWCS)

RECALLING Resolution 5.021 Implementing the provisions on invasive alien species of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Jeju, 2012);

RE-EMPHASISING that Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 associated with the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 states that: "By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritised priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment";

RECALLING the Guiding Principles for the Prevention, Introduction and Mitigation of Impacts of Alien Species that Threaten Ecosystems, Habitats or Species adopted through Decision VI/23 of the Sixth Conference of Parties to the CBD (CBD COP6, The Hague,2002), and that Guiding Principle 7 on the role of States indicates that States should consider putting in place appropriate measures to control introductions of invasive alien species within the State according to national legislation and Dpolicies where they exist;

AWARE that introduction of alien species beyond a distinct biogeographic region poses a risk of biological invasion even within national jurisdictions;

NOTING that the Government of Japan plans to recommend to UNESCO that three islands of the Ryukyu archipelago, Amamioshima, Tokunoshima and Okinawa Island, be considered for World Natural Heritage status; and

RECOGNISING that the United States Marine Corps facility planned for construction at Henoko on Okinawa Island, requires 21 million cubic metres of soil and rock to be used in reclamation work, of which 17 million cubic metres will be transferred from mainland Japan and two of the other islands of Ryukyu archipelago, Amamioshima and Tokunoshima, where species that are alien to Okinawa Island occur;

The World Conservation Congress, at its session in Hawai'i, United States of America, 1-10 September 2016:

1. REQUESTS Director General and the Species Survival Commission strengthen capacity in detection and monitoring of invasive alien species and potentially invasive alien species in island ecosystems through international collaboration;

2. URGES the Government of Japan to address introduction pathways for alien species, especially those contaminating the landfill materials to be transferred to the construction site of the United States Marine Corp Facility at Henoko, Okinawa, and, in particular, to:

a. develop methods for early detection of alien species in landfill materials prior to their transfer to Henoko in Okinawa, and to make use of the methods recommended by experts and biodiversity stakeholders in Okinawa region;

b. conduct appropriate risk analysis, inviting third party experts on the transfer of landfill materials, and apply risk reduction measures to protect important biodiversity heritage in Okinawa region;

c. invite third party experts and biodiversity stakeholders in Okinawa region to conduct early detection and continuous monitoring for invasive alien species at the construction site and surrounding areas in Okinawa, ensuring a participatory process of decision making on the transfer of landfill materials; and

d. take rapid response action for the eradication of invasive alien species when presence at the construction site is established and to contain such invasive alien species to prevent their spread to the surrounding areas of Okinawa;

3. FURTHER URGES the Government of Japan to address the growing opportunities for the introduction of alien species through tourism and military activities in the Ryukyu islands and to strengthen measures for preventing the entry of alien species at ports of arrival; and

4. INVITES the Government of the United States of America to take appropriate measures to prevent introduction of alien species via landfill materials, ships, aircraft and military activities, and to minimise the impact of alien species establishing themselves on Okinawa Island, in collaboration with the Government of Japan.

Explanatory Memorandum

The impact of invasive species on ecosystems as competitors for food and habitat and as predators of endemic and endangered animals has been shown in different places in Japan and other countries. They also cause serious damage to agriculture and fisheries.

1. As World Conservation Congress Resolution 5.021 (Jeju, 2012) warned, biological invasions are constantly increasing among all taxonomic groups, and in all environments, from marine to freshwater and terrestrial, causing growing impacts on world biodiversity, affecting a high proportion of threatened species.

2. Also the growing number of tourists in Ryukyu islands inevitably increase the risk of invasive alien species entering to the islands with ships, planes and the activities of tourism industry, which threaten the economic value of tropical islands in tourism is associated with their rich biodiversity in natural landscape and iterated in an information document an information document at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in PyeongChang, Republic of Korea, in October 2014. (UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/8).

3. Introduction of alien species beyond a distinct biogeographic region poses a risk of biological invasion even within national jurisdictions.

4. CONCERNED that as the biodiversity of the Ryukyu archipelago could be threatened by the introduction of invasive alien species, the economic value of the islands in tourism could be threatened as well (UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/8);

5. RECOGNISED the United States Marine Corps facility planned to be built in Henoko, Okinawa Island requires 21 million cubic metres of soils and rocks to be used in the reclamation, of which 17 million cubic metres will be transferred from mainland Japan and two of the other islands, Amamioshima and Tokunoshima, of Ryukyu archipelago where species that are alien to Okinawa Island occur. ALARMED that invasive alien species including Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*) have been found in some of the above-mentioned sites in mainland Japan;

6. The transportation of such a large quantity of soil and rock across different climate and geographical zones would certainly lead to the introduction and spread of alien species to Okinawa Island and this would have far reaching effects on other islands of Okinawa as well. Specific concern has been raised over the possible impact of *Aspergillus* species and *Serratia marcescens* on coral species in Okinawa as well other land-based species;

7. Apply the precautionary principle and measures to control species which have not been officially

designated as invasive alien species under the Alien Species Act of Japan, but would be designated as such in future (“potential invasive alien species”);

8. The construction work of the US Marine Corps facility is about to start.

Relevant documents:

a. We have sent a letter to Dr. Piero Genovesi, Invasive Species Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission on January 27, 2014 for seeking advice.

http://www.nacsj.or.jp/katsudo/henoko/pdf/LetterktokIUCNkSSCkISSGkkJan.27.2014k_1.pdf

b. Alien Species problem of FRF(Futenma Replacement Facility)plan

<http://shark.ti-da.net/e8396074.html>

c. Ecological Society of Japan describe the richness of the planned construction area in the request to the Government of Japan 'Joint Petition by the 19 Society Groups calling for Environmental Conservation of the Highly Remarkable Biodiversity in Oura Bay, Okinawa'

http://www.esj.ne.jp/esj/Activity_e/2015_OuraBay.pdf