

# Designation Plan for Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area (Excerpt)

November 1, 2009

The Ministry of the Environment

## 1. Outlines of the National Wildlife Protection Area

### (1) Name of the National Wildlife Protection Area

Yambaru (Aha) National Wildlife Protection Area

### (2) Area comprising the National Wildlife Protection Area

As shown in the figure 5-1-8 in the nomination documents

### (3) Duration as the National Wildlife Protection Area

From November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2029 (20 years)

### (4) Designation category for the National Wildlife Protection Area

Habitat for threatened wildlife

### (5) Purpose for designation as the National Wildlife Protection Area

This site is located in Aha Ward, Kunigami Village, Kunigami County, Okinawa Prefecture, in the northern part of Okinawa Island, north of the central portion of the reservoir impounded by Aha Dam. The Aha River runs along the west, while the Fungawa River runs along the east. The area is covered by subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest consisting mainly of *Castanopsis sieboldii*.

Reflecting such natural environment, this region is home to various rare birds that are National Endangered Species, as defined under the Act on Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Act No. 75 of 1992), and listed on the Red List prepared by the Ministry of the Environment, including the Okinawa woodpecker (*Sapheopipo noguchii*; CR), the Okinawa rail (*Gallirallus okinawae*; CR), and the Ryukyu robin (*Luscinia komadori namiyei*; EN).

This area is also home to several rare mammals, including the Okinawa least horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus pumilus pumilus*; EN) and the Ryukyu wild boar (*Sus scrofa riukiuanus*; EN).

As such, the area is an important habitat for threatened wildlife species and is designated a National Wildlife Protection Area, as defined under Article 28 (1) of the Wildlife Protection and Proper Hunting Act (Act No. 88 of 2002), for the purpose of protecting threatened wildlife species that occur here.

## **2. Guidelines concerning protection in the National Wildlife Protection Area**

### **(1) Protection and management policies**

(i) Gather information on the status of wildlife in the area concerned, based on bird and mammal monitoring surveys and on-site patrols.

(ii) Prevent inadvertent human activities that may threaten wildlife habitats and adverse effects of scattered waste that may threaten bird species, through on-site patrols and coordinated action with relevant local governments, NPOs, and local residents, including public awareness activities.

(iii) Implement activities to control the Javan mongoose and other alien species that pose a threat to the survival of native species.

## **3. The land (by land-use) and water surface area of the National Wildlife Protection Area**

Total area: 465 ha

### **Breakdown**

#### **A. Breakdown according to land-use type**

Forest: 407 ha

Agricultural land: 18 ha

Water surface: 37 ha

Other: 3 ha