

Guidelines Concerning Conservation of the Natural Environment

(Excerpt)

Preparer: Okinawa Prefecture

Date: 1998

(Omitted)

○ Goals of the Guidelines

At present, the natural environment continues to undergo transformations, and there are concerns over the impact on ecosystems and the decline of precious wildlife, as a result of development projects and similar undertakings everywhere throughout the prefecture.

What is more, the nature found all around us continues to decline, as evidenced by the fact that wildlife that people used to catch site of regularly, such as dragonflies and butterflies, are no longer seen as a result of advancing urbanization.

Therefore, these guidelines will clearly lay out the nature that should be conserved based on determinations of the current status and characteristics of the nature in each region, and set forth modalities for proper conservation. This is designed to ensure that the diverse ecosystems on each respective island can be maintained in sound condition.

(Omitted)

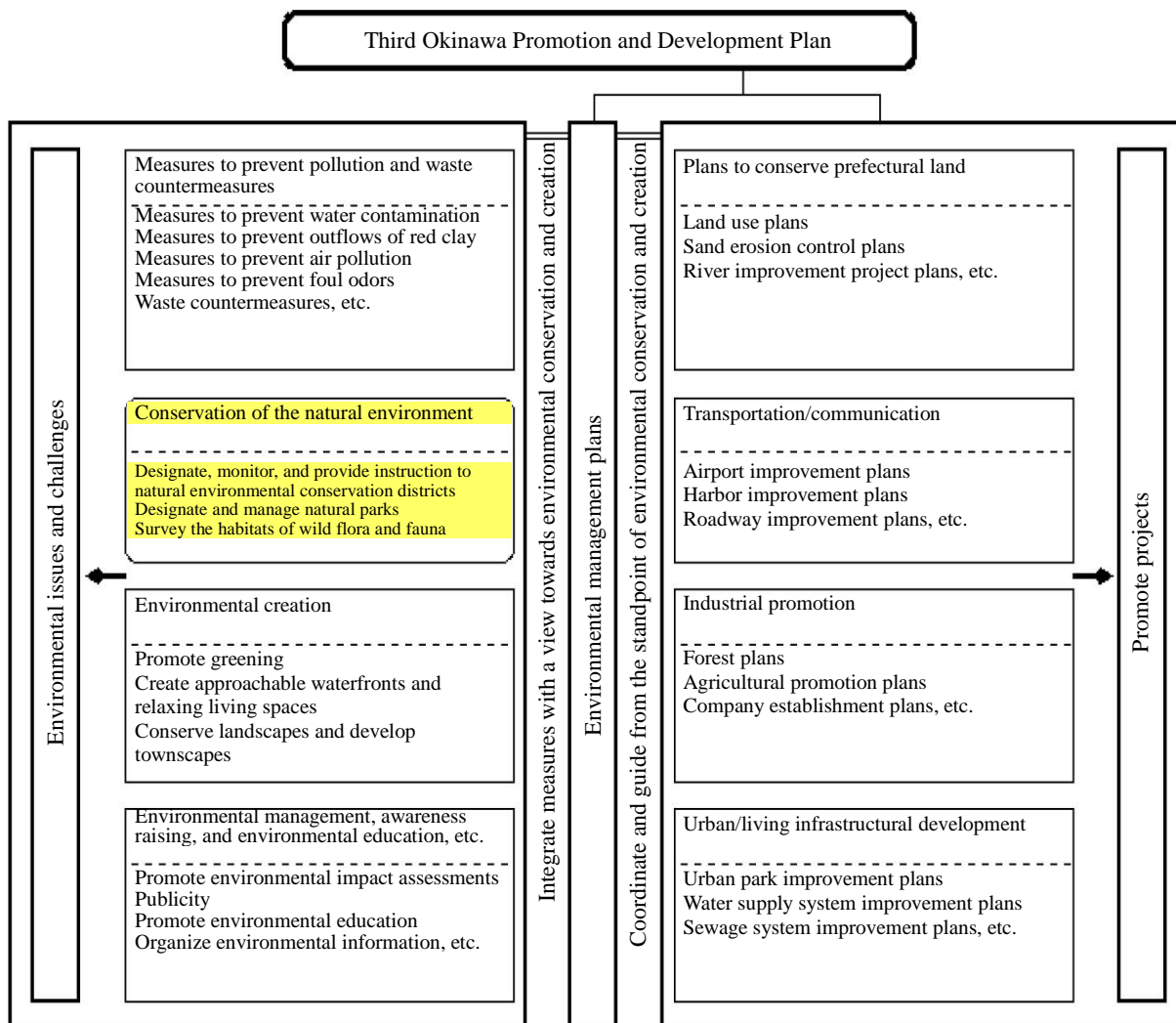
○ Positioning of the Guidelines

Okinawa Prefecture's Environmental Management Plan was enacted in 1993 to serve as a basic plan for achieving a desirable environment in Okinawa Prefecture.

Environmental problems in Okinawa Prefecture and comprehensive measures for resolving these are indicated within the plan. As such, the Guidelines Concerning Conservation of the Natural Environment has been positioned as another measure for conserving the natural environment.

The Guidelines Concerning Conservation of the Natural Environment also serves as indicators for the considerations to be undertaken by prefectural residents, businesses, and administrative agencies

from their own respective positions concerning the protection and moderate use of favorable natural environments in the prefecture to achieve a desirable environment in Okinawa Prefecture.



(Omitted)

○ Application of the Guidelines

1. Promote notifications for prefectural residents and consideration by businesses

For the future, efforts will be made to notify prefectural residents and the like through the use of the internet, and they will be called upon to provide information related to the environment.

Moreover, businesses will be encouraged to give consideration to the environment based on the guidelines when drafting the plans for projects and implementing projects.

2. Establish venues for coordination and consultations with related agencies

For the future application of the guidelines, coordination and consultations with related agencies will be performed at the promotion committee for Okinawa Prefecture's Environmental Management Plan. Here they will be encouraged to give consideration to the protection and moderate use of the natural environment.

In addition, coordination will be carried out with businesses as needed, and they will be instructed to draw up business plans that give consideration to the environment.

3. Promote surveys concerning the natural environment

Efforts will be made to promote surveys on the natural environment in aiming to augment information on the natural environment. This will include surveys to determine the ecology and habitats of precious species excluded from the surveys that have been carried out to date, such as basic surveys on conservation of the natural environment and surveys on special birds, and also surveys to determine the existing vegetation and the extent and age of vegetation, surveys to determine the ecology and habitats of coral, and more.

4. Create databases of information on the natural environment

The creation of a database of literature related to the natural environment will be promoted in order to facilitate the smooth provision of such information in aiming to use information on the natural environment effectively. What is more, efforts will be made to create a database of information on the natural environment, such as the distribution of precious flora and fauna.

5. Designate and expand protection areas

The designation and expansion of natural environmental conservation districts, natural parks, and wildlife protection areas will be promoted based on the assessments of the guidelines and the results of surveys on the natural environment.

(Omitted hereafter)