

Designation Plan for Iriomote National Wildlife Protection Area, Iriomote Special Protection Zone (Excerpt)

November 1, 2011

The Ministry of the Environment

1. Outlines of the Special Protection Zone

(1) Name of the Special Protection Zone

Iriomote Special Protection Zone

(2) Area comprising the Special Protection Zone

As shown in the figure 5-1-17 in the nomination documents

(3) Duration as the Special Protection Zone

From November 1, 2011 to October 31, 2031(20 years)

(4) Designation category for the Special Protection Zone

Habitat for threatened wildlife

(5) Purpose for designation as the Special Protection Zone

Located on Iriomote Island in the western portion of Yaeyama Islands, this area consists of land stretching from the south shore to the central part of the island, including Mt. Komidake (elevation 469.5 m), Mt. Tedo (elevation 441.2 m), and Mt. Gozadake (elevation 420.4 m), the highest peaks in Okinawa Prefecture; part of the Sakiyama Peninsula; and the northwest portion of the island.

The regions stretching from the center of the island to the south shore and part of the Sakiyama Peninsula are covered by pristine large subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest, dominated by *Castanopsis sieboldii* and *Quercus miyagii*. A portion of the island's northwest lies abuts the estuary of the Urauchi River, where a large mangrove forest develops.

Reflecting such natural environment, various parts of the island are home to rare species 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 Iriomote cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis iriomotensis*; CR), the crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela perplexus*; CR), and the emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica yamashinai*; EN).

Past surveys have confirmed particularly frequent occurrence of Iriomote cats and a bountiful supply of prey species in this area, indicating that the area harbors a good feeding ground and habitat for the species.

This is a crucial habitat for various threatened wildlife species, including the Iriomote cat, and is designated a Wildlife Protection Area as defined under Article 28 (1) of the Wildlife Protection and Proper Hunting Act (Act No. 88 of 2002).

2. Guidelines concerning protection in the Special Protection Zone

(1) Protection and management policies

(i) Appropriately manage as a protected area for threatened wildlife species habitat to protect threatened species such as Iriomote cat.

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

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

3. The land (by land-use) and water surface area of the Special Protection Zone

Total area: 9,999 ha

Breakdown

A. Breakdown according to land-use type

Forest: 9,999 ha

Agricultural land: - ha

Water surface: - ha

Other: - ha