

Designation Plan for Mt. Yuwandake National Wildlife Protection Area, Mt. Yuwandake Special Protection Zone (Excerpt)

November 1, 2005

The Ministry of the Environment

1. Guidelines

(1) Name of the Special Protection Zone

Mt. Yuwandake Special Protection Zone

(2) Area comprising the Special Protection Zone

As shown in the figure 5-1-3 in the nomination documents

(3) Duration as the Special Protection Zone

From November 1, 2005 to October 31, 2025 (20 years)

(4) Guidelines concerning protection in the Special Protection Zone

(i) Designation category for the Special Protection Zone

Habitat for threatened wildlife

(ii) Purpose for designation as a Special Protection Zone

Amami-Oshima Island lies 300 km south of Sata Cape, Kagoshima Prefecture. Measuring 719 km² in area, Amami-Oshima Island is, after Okinawa Island, the second largest of the Nansei Islands. The Mt. Yuwandake Wildlife Protection Area lies in a central mountainous area at altitudes of 230 m to 694 m, centering on Mt. Yuwandake, the island's highest peak. The central mountainous area is dominated by evergreen broad-leaved forest, including *Castanopsis sieboldii*, *Quercus miyagii*, *Machilus thunbergii*, and *Distylium racemosum*. The island is known to have been isolated from the continent relatively early, some 1 million to 1.5 million years ago.

Reflecting the island's natural environment and geological history, several birds listed in the *Threatened Wildlife of Japan - Red Data Book 2nd ed. - Volume 2, Aves* (edited by the Ministry of the Environment) have been confirmed to live here, including the Amami thrush (*Zoothera dauma major*; CR), the Amami woodcock (*Scolopax mira*; EN), the white-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos owstoni*; EN), the

Japanese pygmy woodpecker (*Dendrocopos kizuki amamii*; VU), the ashy minivet (*Pericrocotus divaricatus*; VU), the Ryukyu robin (*Luscinia komadori*; VU), and the Amami jay (*Garrulus lidthi*; VU). Mammals included in the *Threatened Wildlife of Japan - Red Data Book 2nd ed. - Volume 1, Mammalia* (edited by the Ministry of the Environment) have also been confirmed to live on the island, including the Yanbaru whiskered bat (*Myotis yanbarensis*; CR), the Amami rabbit (*Pentalagus furnessi*; EN), the Ryukyu long-haired rat (*Diplothrix legata*; EN), and the Ryukyu tube-nosed bat (*Murina ryukyuna*; EN).

In the Mt. Yuwandake Wildlife Protection Area, forests ranging from altitudes of 430 m to 694 m in the central mountainous area, centering on Mt. Yuwandake, offer the most crucial breeding and foraging grounds on Amami-Oshima Island for the Yanbaru whiskered bat and Ryukyu tube-nosed bat. The former species was recorded as a new species in 1998. Recognized as a particularly important area within the Mt. Yuwandake Wildlife Protection Area, this area is designated a Special Protection Zone, as defined under Article 29 (1) of the Wildlife Protection and Proper Hunting Act, for the purpose of protecting the habitats of the threatened wildlife species that occur here.

Management policies

- Maintain current habitat conditions to allow mountain streams and forests to continue serving as resting, feeding, and breeding grounds for threatened wildlife species.
- Take coordinated action to maintain and build roads in the area and to repair forest trails in joint efforts with local governments and relevant organizations to demonstrate due consideration for the conservation of natural habitats.

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

Total area: 103 ha

Breakdown

A. Breakdown according to land-use type

Forest: 103 ha

Agricultural land: - ha

Water surface: - ha

Other: - ha