

Regional Administration and Management Plan (The Amami-oshima Forest Planning Area): Excerpts

1. Basic Matters Related to the Administration and Management of National Forests

(1) Basic Policy on Administration and Management of National Forests

This Plan has the Amami-oshima Forest Planning Area as its jurisdiction, covering 8,130 hectares of national forests, which include 209 hectares of those retired from forestry business, in the Amami Islands, a group of remote islands (Amami-oshima, Kikai-jima, Kakeroma-jima, Uke-shima, Yoro-shima, Tokuno-shima, Okinoerabu-jima, and Yoron-jima), although none of them has any national forest, other than Amami-oshima and Tokuno-shima.

(Omitted)

(A) Amami-oshima Area (Forest compartment No. 201 - No. 230)

The Area stretches from the middle through southern parts of the island, zero to 700 meters above sea level, lying in subtropical maritime climate, which keeps the district warm and rainy throughout the year, leaving there red-yellow soil that is poor in humus. Covered with thin topsoil and hit by frequent typhoons, the island is unsuitable for growing cedars and cypresses, and as a result, planted forests occupy a smaller part of the woods there, 20 percent. In physiognomy, the major part of the area is composed of natural broad-leaved trees, such as sudajii chinquapin (*Castanopsis sieboldii*), isunoki witch hazel (*Distylium racemosum*), and iju camellia (*Schima liukuensis Nakai*), with some area of mixed forest, mainly ryukyumatsu pine (*Pinus luchuensis*). As a large part of the area is expected to serve as water source forest for people living along lower reaches of rivers running there and perform the function of water conservation, this Plan classifies it as "Water and Soil Conservation Forest" for its administration and management.

Parts of the Kamiya National Forest and a large part of the Kamiokubo National Forest located around the top of Mt. Yuwan-dake are designated as national monuments, and parts of the Kinsakubaru National Forest are classified as Reserved Forest for Health and Recreation.

As they are expected to perform the functions for preservation of natural environments, and health and culture, this Plan classifies them as "Forest for Coexistence of Human and Nature" for their administration and management.

(B) Tokuno-shima Area (Forest compartment No. 231 - No. 261)

The Area, lying 100 to 650 meters above sea level, stretches over Tokunoshima Town, Amagi Town, and Isen Town, with many foldings found in most parts, covered with thin topsoil poor in humus.

In physiognomy, the area is covered with natural forests, mainly Ryukyumatsu pine (*Pinus luchuensis*), Okinawa-urajirogashi oak (*Quercus miyagii*), and sudajii chinquapin (*Castanopsis sieboldii*).

As Mt. Hage-dake, Mt. Inokawa-dake, and areas surrounding them, designated as a Special Protection Zone in Amami Islands Quasi-National Park, are expected to perform the functions for preservation of natural environments, and health and culture, this Plan classifies them as "Forest for Coexistence of Human and Nature" for their administration and management.

As the Akahata, Isen, and Kanpuku National Forests, serving as water sources for local settlements, are expected to perform the function of water conservation, this Plan classifies them as "Water and Soil Conservation Forest" for their administration and management.

(2) Matters Related to the Administration and Management Corresponding to Functional Types

Administration and management of forests must be performed according to their functional types based on the "Policies on Forest Administration and Management" (separate volume), with attention also given to the matters stated below, in a manner relevant to site, forestry, and other conditions of individual forest stands.

When any timber is produced as a result of operations necessary to maintain and improve forests in physiognomy developed to help them perform expected functions, effort must be exerted to make the most of it. Final cutting must also be performed in a systematic manner to satisfy needs of local communities, such as evenness in the age structure of trees and efficient use of biomass, for supplying timber.

Matters related to Water and Soil Conservation Forests

Water and Soil Conservation Forests are classified into two types, Land Conservation and Water Conservation Types, to deal with them.

(A) Land Conservation Type

Forests are classified into the Land Conservation Type when they are primarily expected to perform the functions of controlling erosion and collapse of land, fall of rock, and/or other forest disasters that may cause damage to human life and/or facilities, and preserving and developing other conditions for safe and comfortable life; they must be administered and managed in an appropriate manner, with attention given to matters stated below, based on, among others, relationship in location between a forest and its conservation target, their site conditions, such as geological and geographical features, and the current state of the forest.

- (a) Forest stands, when expected to control erosion and collapse of land, fall of rock, and/or other forest disasters that may cause damage to human life and/or facilities, must be grown to have deep and wide root systems, and maintain layers of fallen leaves, with moderate sunlight

pouring in, understory vegetation growing well, and facilities constructed for forest conservation and other purposes when necessary to prevent erosion and/or collapse of land, as their target for development.

- (b) Stands expected to control wind, drifting sand, and other weather harms that may cause deterioration of environments must be grown to consist of types of trees with greater shielding capability, such as those of larger height, and/or higher density of lower branches, to be more resistant to various types of damage, as their target for development.

(B) Water Conservation Type

Forests are classified into the Water Conservation Type when they are primarily expected to perform the functions of supplying plenty of quality water people need for their lives; for better performing the function of water conservation, which includes drought mitigation and water quality preservation, forests there must be grown to maintain forest soil with greater capabilities of water permeability and storage, and root systems and understory vegetation developed sufficiently to resist various types of damage, as their target for development.

Area of Water and Soil Conservation Forests (in hectares)

Type	Land Conservation	Water Conservation	Total
Current Plan	2,962	3,925	6,887
Former Plan	2,963	3,927	6,890

(ii) Matters related to Forests for Coexistence of Human and Nature

Forests for Coexistence of Human and Nature are classified into two types, Nature Conservation and Forest Space Usage Types, to deal with them.

(A) Nature Conservation Type

Forests are classified into the Nature Conservation Type when they are primarily expected to perform the functions of conserving natural environments, such as maintenance of natural environments composed of primeval forest ecosystems, protection of animals and plants, and preservation of genetic resources; in principle, they must be allowed to go through natural transition while administered and managed with care paid to preservation of biodiversity, among others.

Among forests classified into the Nature Conservation Type, those composed of primeval forest ecosystems, those needed by precious wild animals and plants for their habitation, and those needed to preserve genetic resources, among others, must be selected as protected forest.

(B) Forest Space Usage Type

Forests are classified into the Forest Space Usage Type when they are primarily expected to perform the functions of providing places for sport or recreation, education and culture, relaxation, or other activities, and excellent landscape, and maintaining scenic beauty in or around urban areas; they must be administered and managed in a manner relevant to their form of use for health and cultural purposes.

Area of Forests for Coexistence of Human and Nature

(in hectares)

Type	Nature Conservation		Forest Space Utilization		Total
		Protected Forest		Recreation Forest	
Current Plan	951	265	—	—	951
Former Plan	951	265	—	—	951

(Omitted)

2. Matters related to maintenance and preservation of national forests

(1) Matters related to patrol

- (i) Forest conservation patrol for forest fire prevention and other purposes

Public relations and awareness raising activities for preventing fire forests, together with enhanced forest conservation patrols, must be performed to take full-scale measures for preventing fire forests.

Effort to prevent illegal dumping of waste must also be exerted through enhanced cooperation between local municipalities and other relevant organizations, Forest Conservation Patrollers, and volunteer organizations.

(Omitted)

- (iii) Protection and administration of rare wild species

As the main island, Amami-oshima, is inhabited by several Nationally Endangered Species of Wild Fauna or Flora, such as Owston oakagera woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos owstoni*), ootora-tsugumi thrush (*Zoothera dauma amami*), Amami-yamashigi thrush (*Scolopax mira*), and Amami-no-kurousagi hare (*Pentalagus furnessi*), forests there must be patrolled to maintain and preserve environments of their habitats.

(Omitted)

(3) Matters related to forests that require special protection

This Planning Area is covered with many natural forests offering precious natural environments, and given that they have important roles to play in efforts to preserve biodiversity, they must be

designated as protected forest for appropriate protection and conservation, with patrol and monitoring conducted for them for facilitating appropriate preservation and administration.

(i) Protected forest

(in hectares)

Type	No. of sites	Area (hectares)
Forest for Preserving Genetic Resources of Forest Trees	3	265
Total	3	265

(Omitted)

(4) Other necessary matters

In this Planning Area, as seen in the fact that most of the national forests have been designated as Reserved Forest for Water Conservation, many of the woods are critical for water conservation, and therefore, the reserved forests, as well as others, must be administered in an appropriate manner.

Efforts must also be made to rehabilitate and restore forests damaged by natural disasters or other causes, as well as grow forests where people can live side by side with wild birds and animals, and recover devastated vegetation in collaboration and cooperation with volunteer and other organizations, as part of initiatives carried out to preserve forest ecosystems.

The Area is also susceptible to typhoons and other threats of nature, which requires any project to be carried out there with full attention paid especially to conservation of water sources, prevention of forest disasters, and maintenance of landscape.

3. Matters related to the supply of forest products

(Omitted)

(2) Other necessary matters

Forest products must be supplied with great effort to achieve effectiveness and efficiency, especially to sell more of the trees cut down for thinning as timber.

Initiatives for encouraging use of more wood must also be carried out; for instance, more timber from thinning should be used for construction of wooden buildings for government agencies or other purposes, engineering works for forests, and other public works.

4. Matters concerning utilization of national forests

(1) Policy for promoting utilization of national forests

Effective and efficient use of national forests must be actively promoted in full coordination with administration and management of them, with social and economic conditions of local communities and opinions of people there taken into account, in a manner to help promote local industries and improve welfare of the people.

Given that, adjacent to national forests included in this Plan, farmland is being developed, with farm roads and other facilities under construction for it, active cooperation must be offered when they can be used in an effective manner for such local community development initiatives, with care paid to protection of natural environments and maintenance of natural landscape.

(Omitted)

5. Matters related to the forest maintenance through public participation

(1) Matters related to national participation forests

"Fureai-no-Mori" (Forest for Contact), projects to be carried out in cooperation with volunteer and other organizations under an agreement concluded with them, and other initiatives must be implemented to promote voluntary participation of people in maintenance of forests and other activities.

(Omitted)

(3) Other necessary matters

"Yuyu-no-Mori" (Forest for Play), projects to be carried out to offer regular opportunities of experience under an agreement concluded for that purpose, and other initiatives must be effectively used to make available national forests, rich in natural environment, as a place for a variety of activities for experience, and promote forest environment education.

Active efforts must also be exert to provide teachers and volunteer leaders with learning and awareness-raising opportunities and technical guidance, and offer programs and teaching materials for forest environment education.

The District Forest Offices and other relevant organizations must strive to perform the functions as a base for providing people with information on participation in maintenance and preservation of forests, counseling them, and helping them with participation.

(Omitted)