

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Amami-Oshima Island

(Excerpt)

Preparer: Amami City, Yamato Village, Uken Village, Setouchi Town and Tatsugo Town

Date: 2015

Table of Contents (the excerpted parts have been **bolded**.)

Chapter 1 In Formulating the Strategy

- 1 Background of Formulation of the Biodiversity Strategy
- 2 **Objectives and Roles of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Amami-Oshima Island**
- 3 **Structure of the Strategy and Basic Concepts for Implementing Projects**

Chapter 2 Characteristics of Biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island

- 1 Wide Diversity of Life
- 2 Abundant Endemic Species
- 3 Existence of Endangered Fauna and Flora Created in the Distinctive Climate of Amami-Oshima Island
- 4 Existence of Nature that Has Been Nurtured through the Interaction between People and Nature
- 5 Existence of Nature of Global Significance Affluent in Biodiversity

Chapter 3 Issues in Conservation and Use of Biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island

- 1 Impact of Human Activities such as Development and Excessive Use
- 2 Impact of the Decrease in the Interaction between Human Activities and Nature
- 3 Impact of the Organisms and Substances Artificially Brought in the Area
- 4 Impact of the Environmental Changes Affected by Global Warming
- 5 Impact of the Changing Public Consciousness and Socio-economy

Chapter 4 Basic Items and Targets

- 1 **Basic items**
- 2 **Targets**

Chapter 5 Priority Measures

- [Priority Measure 1] Conservation activities for endangered wildlife and universalization projects of biodiversity
- [Priority Measure 2] Countermeasures against feral cats, feral goats and alien species
- [Priority Measure 3] Project for the Amami-Oshima Island Environmental Culture and Nature Restoration Field Museum
- [Priority Measure 4] Construction project of the Amami-Oshima Island Biodiversity Nature Trails
- [Priority Measure 5] Construction project of the bases for In-the-village Eco-tours
- [Priority Measure 6] Industrial development and biodiversity conservation projects
- [Priority Measure 7] Exchanges and disseminating information
- [Priority Measure 8] Invitation of research bases on the Amami Island Group's environmental culture

Chapter 6 Action Plans

- Basic Policy 1 Conservation and Management of Biodiversity
- Basic Policy 2 Mechanism Building and Human Resources Development to Establish a Society where People and Nature Coexist
- Basic Policy 3 Sustainable Use of Biodiversity

Chapter 7 Steering Structure and Progress Management

- 1 Steering Structure of the Strategy**
- 2 Progress Management of the Strategy
- 3 Role of Each Stakeholder

Chapter 8 Materials

Chapter 1 In Formulating the Strategy

(Omitted)

2. Objectives and Roles of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Amami-Oshima Island

(1) Objectives and natures of the strategy

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of Amami-Oshima Island (hereinafter referred to as “this Strategy”) is formulated by five municipalities on Amami-Oshima Island acting in coordination with each other based on the fundamental law, and will be the general plan for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island.

This Strategy aims to ensure the enhancement of quality of biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island, while at the same time to promote regional revitalization through conserving and using it.

Various measures will be undertaken, based on the views that regional revitalization is to be achieved by nurturing the uniqueness of communities and that its foundation is natural environment and history and culture, aiming to make Amami-Oshima Island Japan’s “model community of the society where people and nature genuinely coexist.”

(2) Roles of the strategy

This Strategy intends to ensure the alignment with the prefecture’s strategy, as well as to be a guideline on conservation and use of biodiversity in implementing the General Promotion Plans of the related municipalities, the Amami Island Group Promotion and Development Plan , etc., in light of the intent of the fundamental law and national strategies. Moreover, it will be a guideline for community-driven activities to build a society where people and nature genuinely coexist.

3. Structure of the Strategy and Basic Concepts for Implementing Projects

This Strategy, which is based on the basic principles of co-existence and recycling, clarifies the issues on conservation and use of biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island, and then puts together a set of measures to be taken while bearing the strategical propositions in mind. With regard to those measures, it sets three basic policies for implementing projects and, in accordance with them, specifies the action plans which the respective regional parties will undertake in collaboration with each other, as well as the priority measures which five municipalities will focus on within the plans.

In addition, with regard to the projects of which the national government, the prefecture, etc. are the responsible entities, the items for which collaboration and support will be requested to the national government, the prefecture, etc. in order to accomplish the projects will be identified after sorting out the roles of five municipalities.

(Omitted)

Chapter 4 Basic Items and Targets

1. Basic Items

(1) Targeted areas

Targeted areas of this Strategy are Amami-Oshima's main island and other included islands under the jurisdiction of Amami City, Yamato Village, Uken Village, Setouchi Town, and Tatsugo Town, as well as their surrounding waters.

(2) Planning period

Planning period of this Strategy is ten years from FY 2015 (Heisei 27) to FY 2024 (Heisei 36).

(3) Basic principles

Basic principles are to both conserve biodiversity in Amami-Oshima Island as an appropriate place for a Natural World Heritage, and to create a society where people respect the culture that has co-existed with nature, sustainably enjoy its benefits, and live more enriched organisms.

(4) Basic policies

In crystallizing the basic principles and achieving the goals, the following three basic policies are set to pursue the endeavors.

2. Targets

(1) Short-term targets (a picture of Amami-Oshima Island in 10 years' time or in 2024)

Both the social infrastructure needed to achieve the long-term target to become Japan's "model community of the society where people and nature genuinely coexist" and the foundation of the community activities to be undertaken as an inscribed Natural World Heritage site will be constructed.

[Situations to aim for]

- No further emergence of degradation of biodiversity, and efforts to lead the already lost diversity to better conditions are underway.

- Habitat environments of fauna and flora including endangered species have been improved, illegal collecting etc. have been eliminated, and no additional emergence of species to conserve.
- A structure is established in which feral cats, feral dogs, and feral goats no longer newly emerge and their population decreases. Mongooses (Small Indian mongooses) have also been eradicated.
- As a result of the heightened awareness among islanders and visitors about alien species, no further intentional addition of alien species due to pet relinquishment, planting and afforestation, transferal of people and objects, or other causes occurs, and the numbers of the already existing alien species are decreasing.
- A capturing system staffed with the capturing personnel who can scientifically manage the wildlife population is established and wildlife population is under proper control.
- Awareness of biodiversity is increasing among islanders and visitors.
- Adequate numbers of places and opportunities are provided where people are able to experience and learn the benefits of biodiversity and nature.
- The primary industries are operated with due consideration to conservation of biodiversity, and the island's local products including traditional vegetables are actively utilized.
- Various stakeholders such as islanders, business operators, academic experts, visitors, and each municipal government share roles and collaborate with each other, working to conserve biodiversity in the respective positions.
- The area has become a vibrant community where, for example, sustainable tourism is provided by taking advantage of the wisdom and skills of people who co-exist with rich nature, and such facts are being publicized both domestically and internationally.

(2) Long-term targets (a picture of Amami-Oshima Island in 50 years' time (2064))

The area is already Japan's "model community of the society where people and nature genuinely coexist."

[Situations to aim for]

- Multi-faceted superior nature, such as rich nature continuously spreading from mountains to the ocean and nature formed through interaction with people, is maintained and various fauna and flora live there.
- Nature is utilized and, under such circumstances, people interact with nature and live spiritually affluent organisms by taking advantage of Amami-Oshima Island's traditional recycling systems and culture.
- A large number of visitors come to Amami-Oshima Island, and an environment has been constructed where they can deeply acknowledge Amami's attractiveness by being embraced within nature and enjoying, tasting, and experiencing it, and can express the gratefulness for it.

- A society has been formed where people are grateful to nature while moderately utilizing it and also undertake the efforts to carefully hand it down to the next generations, while considering it as a matter of course.
- The profiles of Amami-Oshima Island's society where people and nature co-exist in better conditions are widely publicized to the world.

Chapter 5 Priority Measures

[Priority Measure 1] Conservation activities of endangered wildlife and universalization projects of biodiversity

In order to conserve the endangered wildlife living on Amami-Oshima Island, various research on fauna and flora and conservation activities will be conducted in collaboration with the related organizations. At the same time, development of environmental learning hubs, leadership training, and program development will be conducted so that the residents are able to learn about Amami-Oshima Island's biodiversity, and thus the projects to pursue the deeper understanding of biodiversity (= universalization) will be actively undertaken.

- Proper enforcement of the ordinance to protect endangered wild fauna and flora, and promotion of conservation activities
- Monitoring surveys on biodiversity and information gathering
- Development of environmental learning hubs and enhancement of environmental learning
- Establishment of the networks for conservation of biodiversity

[Priority Measure 2] Countermeasures against feral cats, feral goats and alien species

Given such facts that cats reverting to wild (feral cats) are causing serious damage to ecosystems such as predation of endangered species, that the impact of goats reverting to wild (feral goats) on ecosystems is of concern, and that other alien species' invasion is suspected of bringing some impacts on ecosystems, each municipal government has taken a variety of measures including enactment of ordinances. In the coming years, while the countermeasures based on the local characteristics will be pursued, all the municipalities will work in collaboration and effectively facilitate the countermeasures.

- Development of the counteracting projects against feral cats and goats
- Countermeasures against alien species

[Priority Measure 3] Project for the Amami-Oshima Island Environmental Culture and Nature Restoration Field Museum

An ecosystem model based on Amami-Oshima Island's local characteristics will be set up and the conservation of biodiversity will be moved ahead. Additionally, handover and creation of environmental culture will be progressed through information gathering, etc., utilization of the entire island as a field museum for environmental learning will be endeavored, and the pursuit of projects that unify science and culture will be considered.

- Model projects for reclamation of forests, sato-umi (a coastal area where biological productivity and biodiversity has increased through human interaction), and mangroves
- Activities to hand over the environmental culture of coexistence of nature and people
- Development of information hubs of Amami-Oshima Island's environmental culture

[Priority Measure 4] Construction project of the Amami-Oshima Island Biodiversity Nature Trails

On the axis of the "Amami-Oshima Island Biodiversity Nature Trails" (provisional name) that go around Amami-Oshima Island, the possible development of the places where visitors can not only fully enjoy the precious and diverse ecosystems but also experience the environmental culture nurtured by the community, will be examined.

[Priority Measure 5] Construction project of the bases for In-the-village Eco-tours

As visitors are expected to increase following the designation as a quasi-national park and the inscription as a Natural World Heritage site, the selection of a hub location for each municipality will be facilitated in order to promote the resident-driven operation of "In-the-village Eco-tours" for learning and experiencing the environmental culture that remains in colonies at various locations on the island.

[Priority Measure 6] Industrial development and biodiversity promotion projects

The establishment of tourism from new viewpoints and the promotion of environmentally-conscious tourism (e.g. ecotourism) will be conducted in cooperation with the private sector, related organizations, and other parties because visitors are expected to increase following the designation as a national park and the inscription as a Natural World Heritage site, which causes concern over the impacts on the ecosystems of Amami-Oshima Island. Furthermore, environmentally-conscious agricultural production, conservation of fishery resources, and forest maintenance will be

implemented. At the same time, production of processed agricultural, forestry and fishery products will be promoted.

- Development of a new tourism master plan and promotion of experience-based tourism
- Sixth sector industrialization and biodiversity promotion projects

[Priority Measure 7] Exchanges and disseminating information

In order to ensure the dissemination of this Strategy, it will be pursued as an inscribed Natural World Heritage site to have exchanges with a large number of people and the related organizations, etc. both at home and abroad, as well as to actively dispatch the local information.

- Creation of Amami-Oshima Island Nature Ambassador
- Exchanges with other inscribed Natural World Heritage sites
- Promotion of international exchanges
- Exchanges with universities and researchers
- Spreading information

[Priority Measure 8] Invitation of research bases on the Amami Island Group's environmental culture

With regard to the research on the Amami Island Group's environmental culture which is conducted by the Kagoshima Prefecture, invitation of its research bases will be furthered, while the post-inscription measures as a Natural World Heritage site on the Amami Island Group's biodiversity will be carried out in cooperation with the prefecture and other parties.

(Omitted)

Chapter 7 Steering Structure and Progress Management

1. Steering Structure of the Strategy

"Amami-Oshima Island Biodiversity Promotion Council" (provisional name) composed of the five municipalities, i.e. Amami City, Yamato Village, Setouchi Town, Uken Village and Tatsugo Town, will be formed to undertake progress management, review, etc. of the strategy, and it will also be positioned as the steering entity for liaison and coordination with the national and prefectural

governments, the related organizations, etc. as well as for the various measures and projects incorporated within the strategy.

Additionally, in order to get guidance and advice in pursuing the strategy, the possible formation of the “Expert Committee for Amami-Oshima Island Biodiversity Strategy” (provisional name) comprised of academic experts will be examined.

(Omitted hereafter)