

# **Second Okinawa Prefecture Basic Plan for the Environment (Excerpt)**

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Date: April 2013

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## **Chapter 1 Basic Items of the Plan**

(Omitted)

### **2. Goals of the Plan**

This plan is based on the provisions of Article 8 of the Okinawa Prefecture Basic Environment Ordinance. Its goals are listed below.

- Promote environmental conservation by diverse entities that include prefectural residents, businesses, and the government by clearly defining comprehensive, long-term targets and measures related to environmental conservation and creation based on the current status of and challenges for the environment in Okinawa.
- Promote various specific measures related to environmental conservation and creation in a comprehensive and systematic manner with a view towards achieving “A safe, secure Okinawa that is calm, pleasant, and blessed with a lush natural environment” based on partnerships with various entities.

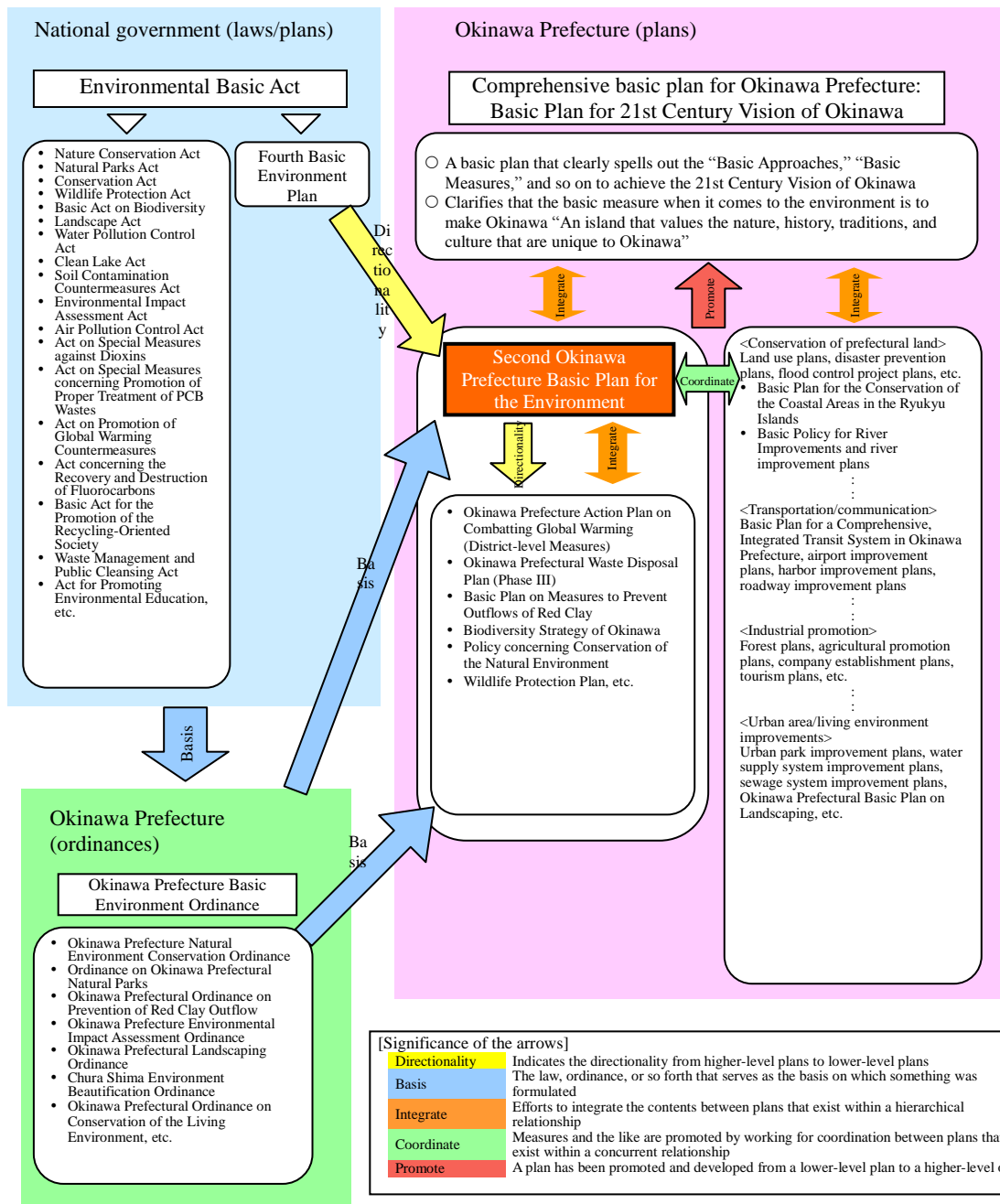
(Omitted)

### **4. Nature/Roles of the Plan**

The role of the plan’s content is to serve as a plan for promoting the 21st Century Vision of Okinawa (which is a basic concept of Okinawa Prefecture) and the Basic Plan for 21st Century Vision of Okinawa (which is a comprehensive basic plan) from an environmental standpoint.

Therefore, plans designed for purposes of conserving the environment in Okinawa Prefecture must be enacted, developed, and promoted in line with this plan. What is more, it was decided that items related to the environment in other plans will be enacted in accordance with the basic thinking behind this plan, just like with plans designed for purposes of conserving the environment, to maintain harmony with this plan.

[Position and Roles of Laws, Ordinances, Plans, and More for Environmental Conservation]



## **5. Plan Period**

The target period for the plan shall last for ten years from FY2013 to FY2022. The plan will promote the Basic Plan for 21st Century Vision of Okinawa and other related plans in line with the Okinawa Prefecture Basic Environment Ordinance from an environmental standpoint.

In addition, this plan will be revised as needed based on the reappraisals to the implementation plan for the 21st Century Vision of Okinawa and changes in the environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the prefecture.

## **6. Region Targeted by the Plan**

The region targeted by this plan shall consist of the entirety of Okinawa Prefecture, including its coastal and ocean areas.

(Omitted)

# **Chapter 4 Roles of Each Entity and Guidelines for Environmental Considerations**

## **1. Roles of Each Entity**

(Omitted)

### **1-1. Administrative Agencies**

The prefecture will promote measures for environmental conservation, restoration, and creation that is both comprehensive and effective based on the basic plan. Moreover, it will offer suggestions for the roles of each entity and guidelines for environmental considerations in order to incorporate various entities, such as businesses, prefectural residents, NPOs and other civil organizations, tourists, and the US military, into environmental conservation activities in a voluntary and proactive manner. In addition, it will also promote initiatives for awareness-raising activities aimed at these entities. Furthermore, it will provide support to enhance the base of activities for environmental conservation measures by setting in place social capital, as well as promoting other environmental conservation activities.

The existence and application of the vast, overcrowded US military base occupying space on Okinawa Prefecture is prominently involved in the lives of the residents and the natural environment

in the surrounding region. Therefore, for its part the prefecture will continue to request that the US military give consideration to the importance of its role here, as well as to the environment.

Initiatives in local regions are crucial for promoting environmental conservation, restoration, and creation. As the decentralization of power advances, the roles played by the municipalities closest to the local residents will continue to grow in importance.

For this reason, the municipalities must enact comprehensive plans concerning environmental conservation, restoration, and creation in accordance with their respective local characteristics. In addition, they must also promote initiatives through cooperation and coordination with the prefecture, businesses, prefectural residents, NPOs and other civil organizations, tourists, the US military, and others.

(Omitted)

**2. Guidelines for Entity-specific Environmental Considerations/Examples of Initiatives**

(Omitted)

**2-1. Administrative Agencies**

Target	Guidelines for Considerations
Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ For the implementation of projects, give consideration to reducing the environmental impact, such as by the effective use of energy and curbing emissions of pollutants.</li> <li>◆ For the implementation of projects and office activities, give consideration to recycling, proactively use environmentally friendly products and recycled products, thoroughly follow the 3Rs, and promote efforts to reduce the weight of waste.</li> <li>◆ For the installation and management of buildings, give consideration to reducing the environmental impact, such as by adopting renewable energies and ESCO projects and effectively using water.</li> <li>◆ Enact and implement various measures such as those for the installation of facilities, regulations, surveys and research, dissemination and awareness-raising, and countermeasures, in order to reduce the environmental impact from socioeconomic activities in the local region.</li> </ul>

Target	Guidelines for Considerations
Coexistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Enact and implement various measures related to things like the installation of facilities, regulations, surveys and research, and raising public awareness, in an effort to conserve water and greenery, ensure habitat spaces for wildlife, and ensure places for interacting with nature.</li> <li>◆ For the implementation of projects, give consideration to the conservation of water and greenery and ensuring habitat spaces for wildlife by performing environmental impact assessments.</li> <li>◆ Promote greening in public lands, such as greenery conservation zones, parks, roads, and within public facilities.</li> <li>◆ For river improvements, give consideration to habitat spaces for living creatures through nature-oriented river works.</li> <li>◆ For the installation of public facilities, give consideration to the historical topography and landscapes in the local region.</li> <li>◆ Promote initiatives geared towards developing local regions that are appealing by harnessing the history, culture, topography, and other characteristics fostered in said local regions.</li> <li>◆ Promote land use that takes the natural environment into consideration.</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ For the implementation of projects in the local region, promote initiatives related to environmental conservation, restoration, and creation in line with the Guidelines for Project-specific Considerations and Guidelines for Region-specific Considerations established in this plan, as well as the Guidelines Concerning Conservation of the Natural Environment.</li> <li>◆ Promote environmental conservation activities and work to develop human resources by promoting environmental learning and environmental education, providing information related to the environment, and more.</li> <li>◆ Make efforts to raise public awareness concerning the adoption of environmental management systems (Eco Action 21/ISO) and environmental accounting, the preparation of environmental reports, and so forth.</li> <li>◆ Work to raise awareness in the local region on issues like how the government itself is taking the lead in green purchasing and proactively using recycled products, and promote the adoption of environmentally friendly products.</li> <li>◆ Promote the environmental conservation activities of staff members by providing training opportunities and information.</li> </ul>

Target	Guidelines for Considerations
Global environmental conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ When using official vehicles, make efforts aimed at proper driving and proper management for fuel efficiency (tire pressure, onboard weight, etc.), such as by striving to engage in eco driving that includes eliminating sudden acceleration, engine revving, and unnecessary idling. In addition, promote the adoption of low-emission vehicles, such as electric vehicles.</li> <li>◆ Work to create favorable pedestrian spaces and to promote the use of bicycles as well as the use of public transportation like buses and monorails.</li> <li>◆ Work to promote transportation demand management (TDM) measures and smooth the flow of traffic.</li> <li>◆ Implement various measures for environmental problems at the global scale, such as global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer.</li> <li>◆ Work towards global environmental conservation measures and initiatives at the regional level, while also promoting efforts like seminars and support programs for prefectural residents, businesses, and more.</li> <li>◆ For the installation and management of buildings, adopt renewable energies and ESCO projects, effectively use water, and work to cut down on greenhouse gases.</li> </ul>
The environment and the economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Work to disseminate the principle of harmony between the environment and the economy to the local region, businesses, and so forth.</li> <li>◆ Promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) among the companies within the prefecture.</li> <li>◆ Work to raise awareness of the cost burden for environmental conservation among the prefectural residents, local region, businesses, and so forth.</li> <li>◆ Work to disseminate and expand environmental management systems at companies.</li> <li>◆ Strive to disseminate and promote energy-saving equipment.</li> <li>◆ Support initiatives to expand recycling businesses and improve their technical capacities.</li> <li>◆ Promote the use of biomass.</li> </ul>

(Omitted)



### 3. Guidelines for Project-specific Considerations

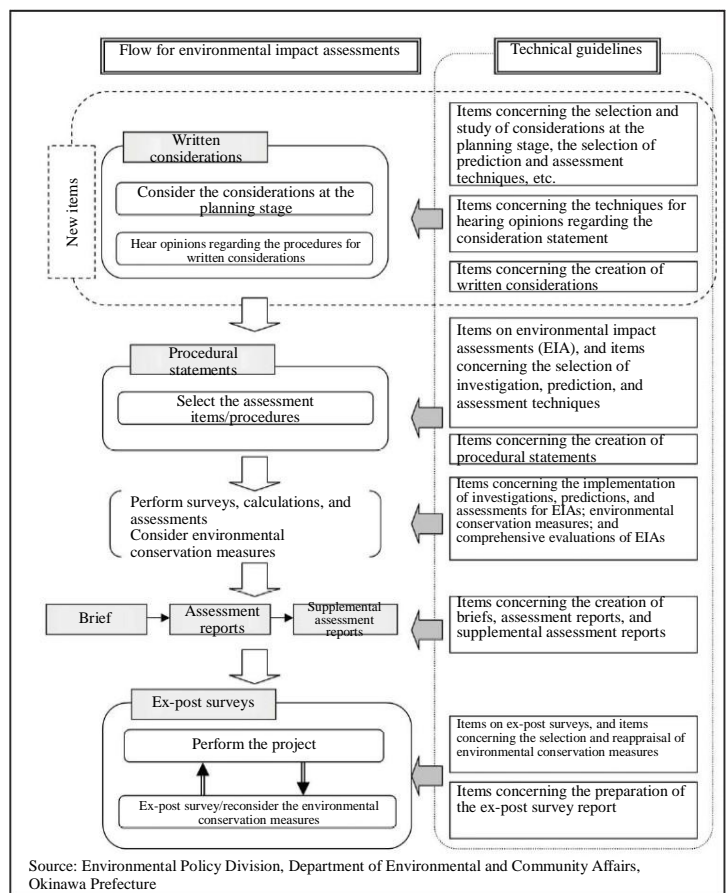
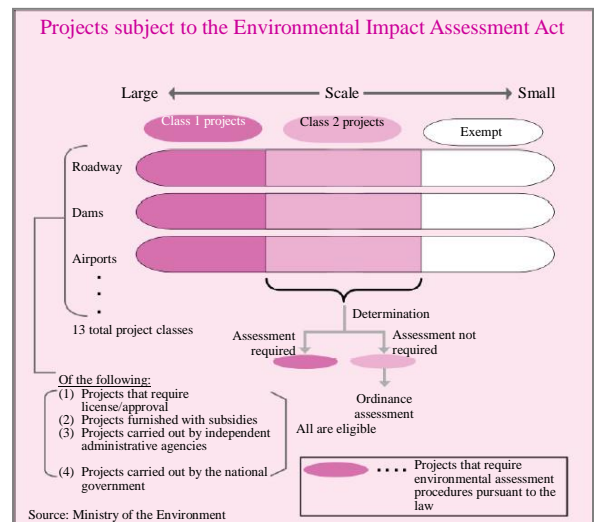
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#### 3-2. Guidelines for Environmental Considerations for the Implementation of Projects

Okinawa Prefecture has lush, invaluable natural environments that are inhabited by a diverse array of many kinds of flora and fauna. But the prefecture's lush natural environments are being lost as a result of the rising population and number of tourists, as well as the advancing socioeconomic activities.

Therefore, large-scale projects for which the extent of their impact on the environment could potentially be considerable must undergo environmental impact assessment procedures pursuant to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act and the Okinawa Prefecture Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Then when the projects are carried out, environmental conservation measures that were considered as part of these procedures must be taken. Doing so has achieved some measure of results in avoiding and reducing environmental impacts as a result of the implementation of such projects.

However, the environmental impact assessment scheme thus far has been focused mainly on environmental conservation measures at the project implementation stage. As a result, environmental considerations have come to be sought starting from the planning stage.



To compensate for such limitations with environmental impact assessments at the project implementation stage, the revisions to the Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 2011 introduced “consideration statement procedures at the planning stage,” whereby environmental considerations are offered at an earlier stage in the project. At the prefectural level as well, in March 2013 this ordinance was amended to introduce a similar procedure, thus revising its scheme so that considerations could be given starting from the planning stage.

Consideration must be given to the prefecture’s environment when implementing projects based on the flow for environmental impact assessments shown in the figure to the right, shared and individual items, and the Guidelines Concerning Conservation of the Natural Environment, which constitutes measures for conserving the natural environment in Okinawa Prefecture.

(Omitted)

#### 4. Guidelines for Region-specific Considerations

With a view towards environmental conservation, restoration, and creation in Okinawa Prefecture, the prefectural government must implement environmental conservation measures in a comprehensive and systematic manner. In addition, various entities such as administrative agencies, businesses, prefectural residents, NPOs and other civil organizations, tourists, and the US military must address environmental conservation measures according to the circumstances in each respective region in line with the fundamental orientation of basic plans for the environment.

For this, the prefecture will be divided up into five regions: The Northern Okinawa Island, Central Okinawa Island, Southern Okinawa Island, Miyako, and Yaeyama Regions, and items warranting environmental consideration will be indicated for each of the regions with consideration given to consistency with related plans.

(Omitted)

Region	Environmental considerations
Shared items for all regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For river improvements, the installation of embankments and revetments, land reclamation and other development projects, and the development of farmland, pay careful attention to things like the project location, scale, structures, and construction methods so as to reduce outflows of red clay, the disruption of ecosystems, and the impact on the scenery.</li> </ul>

Region	Environmental considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Make efforts to restore natural environments that have been lost as a result of past development or the like, and to conserve the remaining nature.</li> <li>● Make efforts to eradicate and control alien species like mongooses and prevent the abandonment of pets (dogs, cats, etc.) in order to prevent the disruption of ecosystems.</li> <li>● With respect to sewage disposal, work to ensure that drainage is disposed of properly, such as by installing community wastewater treatment units in regions where sewage systems, community sewage facilities, and other forms of communal treatment facilities have not been installed. This is to ensure that rivers and ocean areas are not polluted by drainage from homes, business establishments, barns, and so on.</li> <li>● For the tourism industry, give rise to diverse, distinctive, and lush natural environments and outstanding historical and cultural regional resources. In addition, work on initiatives such as creating rules that would allow environmental conservation activities and economic activities to coexist based on the environmental carrying capacity.</li> <li>● Reduce the final disposal volume of waste by means of recycling and effectively using it, and make efforts to create sustainable, recycling-oriented societies.</li> <li>● Work to preemptively prevent the illegal dumping of waste and provide guidance on its proper disposal in cooperation with the related agencies.</li> </ul>
Northern Okinawa Island	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In the mountainous regions farther north of the isthmus that extends from Shioya Bay in Ogimi Village to Taira Bay in Higashi Village, continuous forests with trees that are 40 years old or older have been observed, and this region contains areas that are important as habitats for rare species such as the Okinawa woodpecker. Therefore, make efforts to conserve the natural environments here.</li> <li>● Strive to conserve the rich ocean area ecosystems by preventing damage from the crown-of-thorns starfish and other problems.</li> <li>● Work to prevent precious wild flora and fauna from dying out as a result of being illegally dug up and collected by other means.</li> <li>● Make efforts to eradicate and control alien species like mongooses and prevent the abandonment of pets (dogs, cats, etc.) in order to prevent the disruption of ecosystems.</li> <li>● Make efforts to restore natural environments that have been lost as a result of past development or the like, and to conserve the remaining nature.</li> <li>● For river improvements, the installation of embankments and revetments, land reclamation and other development projects, and the development of farmland, pay</li> </ul>

Region	Environmental considerations
	<p>careful attention to things like the project location, scale, structures, and construction methods so as to reduce outflows of red clay, the disruption of ecosystems, and the impact on the scenery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For the construction of dams and intake weirs, give due consideration to the habitats of precious wild flora and fauna, as well as ecosystems.</li> <li>● Work to prevent wildlife from entering roadways, utilize gutters that make it easy for them to escape, and avoid roadkill.</li> <li>● For the tourism industry, give rise to diverse, distinctive, and lush natural environments and outstanding historical and cultural regional resources. In addition, work on initiatives such as creating rules that would allow environmental conservation activities and economic activities to coexist based on the environmental carrying capacity.</li> <li>● For forestry, develop and use prefectural lumber and promote forest development that gives consideration to forest ecosystems to allow forests to exhibit the diverse functionality they possess in a sustainable manner. In addition, strive for their multifaceted use through forest tourism and the like.</li> <li>● Aim to create industries that are environmentally friendly. Work on initiatives geared towards demonstration tests and practical implementation when it comes to the adoption of renewable energies such as solar power, wind power, and biomass.</li> <li>● Regarding the use of regions like the Northern Training Area and Aha Training Area after they are returned, take initiatives for the appropriate conservation of the natural environment and the conservation and improvement of forest regions. Also, strive to make use of these by harnessing the resources of the Yambaru forests.</li> <li>● With respect to sewage disposal, work to ensure that drainage is disposed of properly, such as by installing community wastewater treatment units in regions where sewage systems, community sewage facilities, and other forms of communal treatment facilities have not been installed. This is to ensure that rivers and ocean areas are not polluted by drainage from homes, business establishments, barns, and so on.</li> <li>● Work to maintain and improve townscapes and village scenery, such as by conserving utaki (sacred) forests, Hogo Forest, and homestead forests and using them as hedges enclosing gardens.</li> <li>● For development and other projects, make efforts to prevent noise, vibration, low-frequency sound, and air pollution from arising.</li> <li>● Quarry operators are to make efforts to prevent the discharge of dust, such as by sprinkling water around and washing off dust adhering to vehicles.</li> </ul>

Region	Environmental considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reduce the final disposal volume of waste by means of recycling and effectively using it, and make efforts to create sustainable, recycling-oriented societies.</li> </ul>
Yaeyama Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For river improvements, the installation of embankments and revetments, land reclamation and other development projects, and the development of farmland, pay careful attention to things like the project location, scale, structures, and construction methods so as to reduce outflows of red clay, the disruption of ecosystems, and the impact on the scenery.</li> <li>● Work to maintain and improve scenery by conserving utaki forests and homestead forests.</li> <li>● Strive to create a comfortable residential environment, such as by promoting improvements to sewage systems in urban areas and implementing land readjustment projects in accordance with the formation of outer borders around urban areas.</li> <li>● With respect to sewage disposal, work to ensure that drainage is disposed of properly, such as by installing community wastewater treatment units in regions where sewage systems, community sewage facilities, and other forms of communal treatment facilities have not been installed. This is to ensure that rivers and ocean areas are not polluted by drainage from homes, business establishments, barns, and so on.</li> <li>● Strive to conserve the rich ocean area ecosystems by preventing damage from the crown-of-thorns starfish and other problems.</li> <li>● Work on initiatives such as creating rules that would allow environmental conservation activities and economic activities to coexist based on the environmental carrying capacity.</li> <li>● Make efforts to restore natural environments that have been lost as a result of past development or the like, and to conserve the remaining nature.</li> <li>● Work to prevent wildlife from entering roadways, utilize gutters that make it easy for them to escape, and avoid roadkill.</li> <li>● Make efforts to eradicate and control alien species like the green iguana and prevent the abandonment of pets (dogs, cats, etc.) in order to prevent the disruption of ecosystems.</li> <li>● Reduce the final disposal volume of waste by means of recycling and effectively using it, and make efforts to create sustainable, recycling-oriented societies.</li> </ul>

(Omitted hereafter)