

Outline of the Draft Iriomote Island Tourism Management Plan

1. Background of the Iriomote Island Tourism Management Plan

To realize sustainable tourism on Iriomote Island and to respond to the requests from the World Heritage Committee, which were presented at the time of World Heritage inscription, the Basic Visitor Management Plan for a Sustainable Iriomote Island, which was formulated by the Iriomote Island Subcommittee in January 2020, will be revised, and the Iriomote Island Tourism Management Plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan”) will be formulated.

Requests

- a) Capping or reducing levels of tourist visitation from current levels, especially on Iriomote Island, until a critical evaluation of tourism carrying capacity and impacts can be conducted and integrated into a revised tourism management plan.

The Iriomote Island Tourism Management Plan is a tourism management plan that covers the entire Iriomote Island, both the heritage area and outside the heritage area, and integrates various visions, plans, and systems related to the tourism of Iriomote Island that have so far been developed individually.

In the Plan, the current status of tourism on Iriomote Island and its impact will be thoroughly evaluated. Also, to realize sustainable tourism on Iriomote Island, the objectives that Iriomote Island tourism should aim at will be set forth, together with the basic policies and criteria for tourism management in and outside the heritage area; concrete measures to implement appropriate management, monitoring methods, and management systems to confirm and evaluate its effectiveness will be presented in the Plan.

The Iriomote Island Subcommittee will ensure consistency between the basic policies and criteria for tourism management of the Plan and the policies and standards of the relevant individual visions, plans, and systems to avoid contradiction. The respective visions, plans, and systems will be revised to be consistent with the Plan, as necessary.

The relationship between superordinate plans and related visions, plans and systems is as follows:



2. Current Status of Tourism and Issues

2.1 Current status and trends of tourism on Iriomote Island

- The annual number of tourists to Iriomote Island has risen and fallen repeatedly, peaking at 406,000 people in 2007. Since 2015, it has declined gradually, and since 2020, it has fallen by 50% or more of the pre-2019 level due to the impact of movement restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before 2019, the 10-year average number of tourists entering the region was 330,000 (excluding 2011 data, which was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake).
- In 2019, the annual number of tourists entering the region was 290,313, with 224,493 from Ohara Port in the east and 65,820 from Uehara Port in the west.

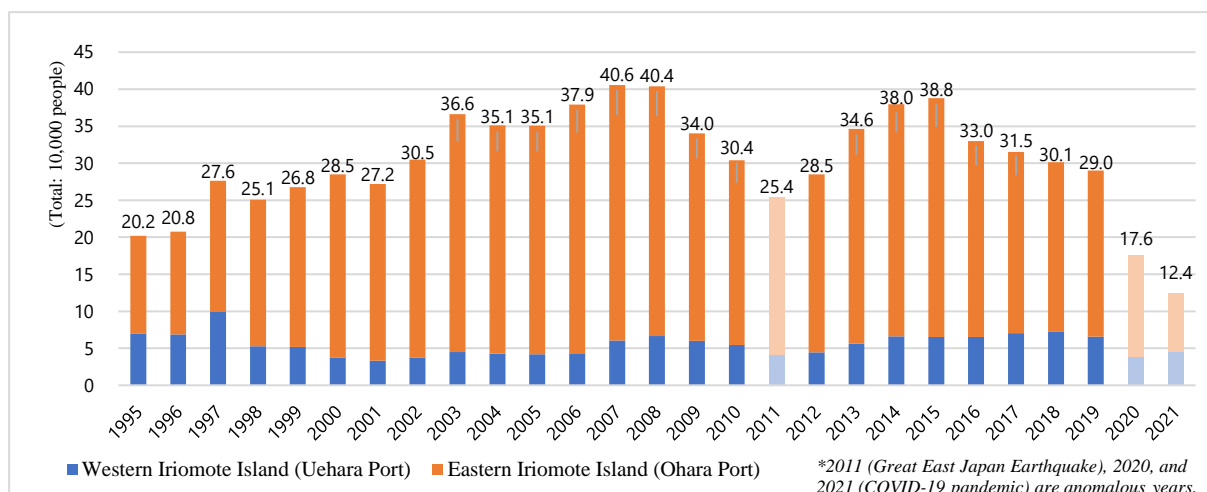


Figure: Annual changes in the number of tourists to Iriomote Island (Source: Taketomi Town website)

- Tourism on Iriomote Island can be generally divided into the following two types: circular tours, using a relatively large field for large buses or motorboats and nature experience-oriented tours (often accompanied by guides and instructors), involving activities such as canoeing and trekking in the sea area. Each type has variable trends in the number of visitors, places of activity, and styles of tourism.
- The number of tourists to Iriomote Island varies greatly seasonally, and the peak periods are different between the eastern and western parts of the island. The number of tourists entering from the eastern part of the island is concentrated in winter, with the peak in March; that from the western part is concentrated in summer, with the peak in August. In addition, tourists in the eastern part tend to take circular tours, while those in the western part tend to take nature experience-oriented tours.
- The annual changes in the number of same-day visitors to Iriomote Island in 2019 show that the number of same-day visitors was 1,543 people per day at the peak day, with its peak rate of 0.49%. In addition, the average is 862 visitors per day, and the standard deviation is 250 visitors per day, which is highly variable. The top 30 days account for 12.2% of the annual number of visitors to the region.
- The number of tourists who visited Iriomote Island in 2019 was 290,000. Of these, a cumulative total of approximately 70,000 people (24%) participated in canoeing, trekking and other eco tours led by tour guides to visit fields within the property. A cumulative total of approximately 150,000 people (52%) participated in sightseeing tours using motor-driven vessels on the Nakama and Urauchi Rivers. In addition, tourists also used facilities and fields in the Surrounding Conservation Area and marine areas.
- The fields used for nature experience-oriented tours and/or ecotourism are widely distributed throughout Iriomote Island, where, as a whole, 27 places on land and the whole sea area are used, of which 20 places are located in the heritage area.
- In recent years, while the number of motorboat users for circular tours has been on a decreasing trend, the number of users for nature experience-oriented tours appears to be on an increasing trend, and there has been an increase in the number of operators providing guidance on nature experiences.

- According to a survey conducted between 2015 and 2016, about 23% of tourists visiting Iriomote Island stayed overnight, but the average number of nights spent on the island was only about 0.36, indicating that many tourists stayed on Ishigaki Island and visited Iriomote Island on a day trip.

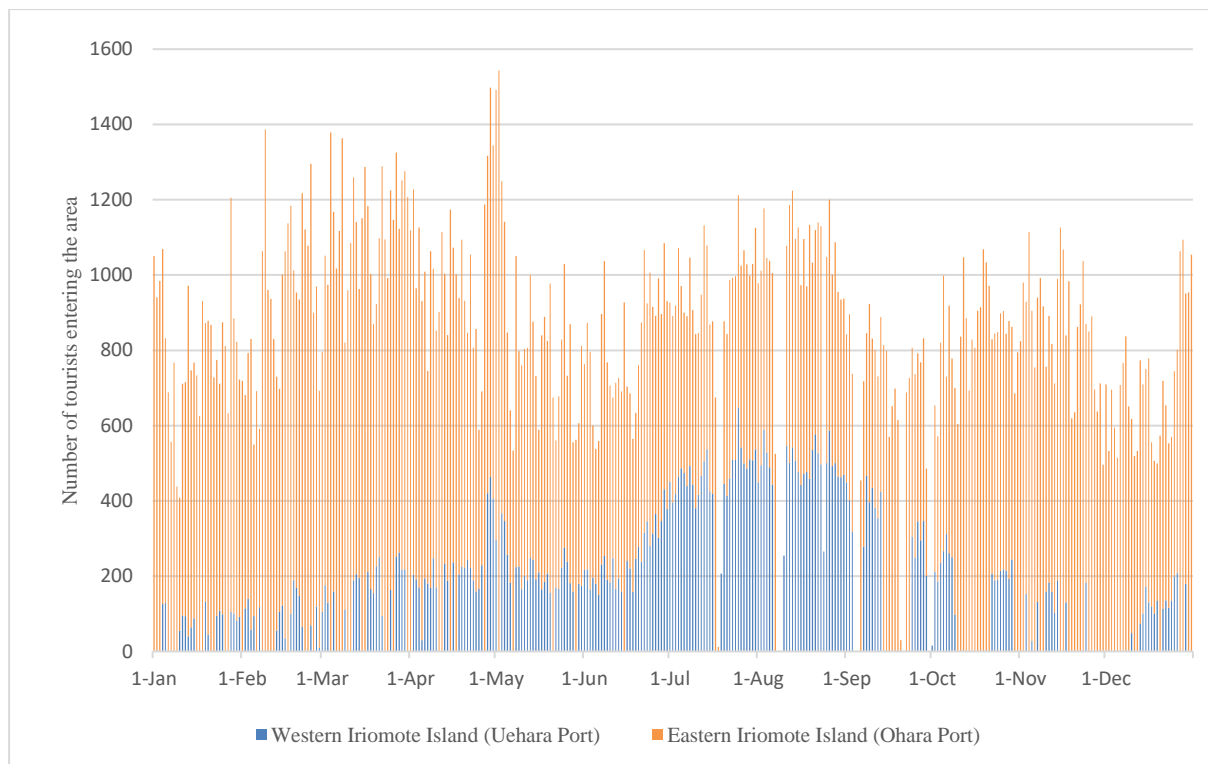


Figure: Daily numbers of tourists entering the Island in 2019
 (Source: Compiled from data provided by shipping companies)

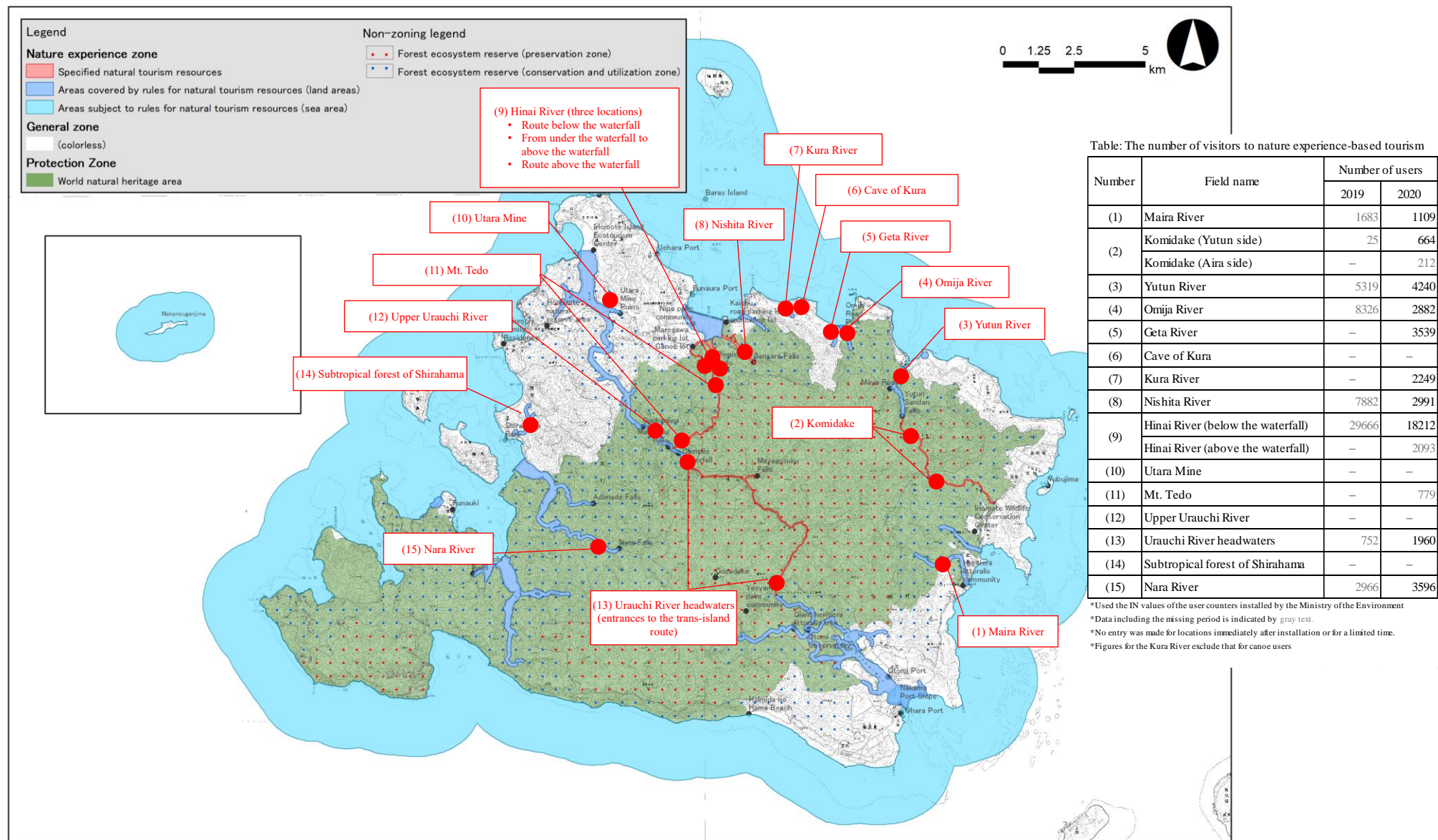


Figure: Distribution of fields for nature experience-oriented tours, locations of user counters, and number of users on Iriomote Island

2.2. Impacts of tourism on Iriomote Island and their assessment

The foreseeable impacts (threats) of tourism assumed inside and outside the heritage area on Iriomote Island have been identified as comprehensively as possible, and each impact has been assessed as to the magnitude of current risk and trends of change in consideration of the importance and carrying capacity of the area that may be affected. The assessment results are shown in the table on the next page. It has been decided that it is necessary to establish management criteria and consider measures to strengthen management with regard to the following tourism impacts.

On the other hand, with regard to the tourism outside the heritage area, the diversification of tourists' behaviors and values may bring about positive effects on the environment, society, economy, etc. of Iriomote Island. Therefore, this plan looked into actions that would contribute to the creation of multifaceted values through tourism; their effects need to be verified when the verification of the effectiveness of this plan is conducted.

(1) Impacts of tourism for which management within the heritage area needs to be strengthened

(i) Impact of increasing places that are used as the fields for nature experience

With regard to the impact of an increasing number of places that are used as the fields for nature experience, it is necessary to curb the increase at or below the current level, which is used as the allowable limit, assuming as a precaution that any act could have impact in light of the importance of the heritage area conservation.

(ii) Impact of increasing visitors who seek nature experience-oriented tours and concentrated tourism use

With regard to impact of increasing tourists who visit places that are used as the fields for nature experience and concentrated tourism use of these places, it is necessary to determine the allowable limit in consideration of carrying capacity and current conditions and limit the number of visitors below it at places where there is a particular concern about the impact in light of the importance of the heritage area conservation. In other places, it is also necessary to strengthen management by continuously monitoring the number of visitors and the indicators of environmental load associated with use, while suppressing the increase in the number of visitors.

(iii) Impact of irresponsible actions of visitors and guide operators and impact due to activity characteristics

To prevent impact of irresponsible actions of visitors and guide operators and impact due to activity characteristics, it is necessary to establish rules for nature experience-oriented use to reduce environmental load and secure the safety of visitors, based on experience, and put in place an institutionalized mechanism to ensure compliance with these rules.

(2) Impacts of tourism for which management outside the heritage area needs to be strengthened

(i) Impact of the total number of visitors to Iriomote Island

With regard to the impact of the total number of visitors to Iriomote Island, in recent years the number of tourists entering the region every year has been rising and falling alternately. Moreover, it is difficult to set the standard figure for the annual number of tourists who can visit the region by evaluating the relation between it and foreseeable impacts from the viewpoint of carrying capacity. Therefore, for the time being, it is necessary to monitor carefully the total number of visitors, so that it will stay within the range of the last 10 years or so.

(ii) Impact of concentrated tourism use at specific times

With regard to the impact of concentrated tourism use at specific times, there are concerns that it causes congestion on regular liner ships and that the infrastructure of the island could be affected. It is therefore necessary to set the standard figure in consideration of carrying capacity and control the number of visitors below it to the extent possible.

(iii) Impact of increasing individual tourists

An increase in the number of individual tourists cannot necessarily be considered to be a foreseeable impact factor. It would be possible to avoid or reduce the impact that could occur if visitors and guide operators who do not behave properly increase. Therefore, it is necessary to monitor the impact carefully and continuously, while ensuring thorough compliance with traffic rules and strengthening public awareness-raising activities.

(iv) Impacts of irresponsible actions of visitors and guide operators and activity characteristics

Same as the description for the impact within the heritage area.

Table: Assumed impacts and assessment for Iriomote Island tourism

| Impact category | Impact factors | | Foreseeable impacts (threats) | Assessment of impacts | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------|------------------|
| | | | | Risk assessment | Trend assessment |
| Impact within the heritage area | Increase in the number of places that are used for tourism within the heritage area | | Reduced primeval areas free of human impact Wider, accumulative, and compound human impact Inhibited growth of highly rare species | High | ↗ |
| | Increase in the number of visitors entering the heritage area Concentrated tourism use at specific locations and times | | Damage to places vulnerable to human activities and environmental degradation Inhibited growth of rare species Decreased visitor safety Decreased quality and satisfaction of visitor experience | High | ↗ |
| | Irresponsible conduct of visitors and guide operators | Capture of rare animals and picking of rare plants | Decreased population of rare species that have been captured or picked Increased risk of extinction | High | ↗ |
| | | Dumping of garbage | Deterioration of water quality and habitat environment | | |
| | | Human waste in the field | Deterioration of water quality and habitat environment | | |
| | | Invasive alien species and pets | Deteriorated conditions for native species due to competition and predation Spread of infection among wild animals such as wildcats | | |
| | | Feeding of wild animals | Behavioral change of wild animals | | |
| | | Disorderly abandonment of canoes etc. | Impact on mangroves etc. and landscape disturbance | | |
| | Load caused by activities | Trekking | Soil hardening, soil denudation, expanded erosion, damaged trees due to trampling and treading by visitors / vegetation change around trails / invasion and spread of alien species / accidents of stray visitors | | |
| | | Canoe, kayak, etc. | Trunk and root damage due to intrusion into the mangroves Disturbance of vegetation and wildlife habitat around coasts and rivers | | |
| | | Activities at streams and waterfalls, canyoning | Inhibited inhabitation and reproduction of fish etc. due to evasion and water quality deterioration / riverbed disturbance and damage to attached algae due to trampling / disturbance to benthic organisms and detritus | | |
| | | Wildlife watching, fishing, collection, etc. | Declined population of animals and plants that have been fished, captured, and/or picked Behavioral change of wild animals as they evade or get used to people | | |
| | Motorboat tours | | Soil erosion and impact on mangroves due to ship waves of motorboats | Low | ↘ |
| Impact outside the heritage area | Development for tourism | Facility construction, landform change, cutting of trees, etc. | Habitat loss and habitat environment change Invasion of alien species / landscape disturbance | Low | → |
| | Total number of visitors to Iriomote Island, concentrated tourism use at specific times, increase in the number of individual tourists | Use of the liner by visitors Occupation of parking lots by tourism operators etc. | Congestion on the liner ships and at the ports / decreased comfort and satisfaction of visitors (crowded toilets, bad atmosphere, hurried tour, etc.) / disturbance to local residents' life (for example, local people cannot board the liner or park vehicles at the port). | Medium | → |
| | | Load on the island's infrastructure by visitors | Water supply restriction to local people due to shortage of water resource Increased load and cost of sewage and waste treatment | Medium | → |
| | | Increase in accidents caused by visitors | Increased burden on local fire brigades and residents for transport and search activities | High | ↗ |
| | | Increased traffic and excessive speed on roadways | Traffic accidents and roadkill of wild animals such as wildcats Occurrence of traffic accidents and decreased safety of local residents' life | High | ↗ |
| | Irresponsible conduct of visitors and tourism operators | Capture of rare animals and picking of rare plants | Declined population of rare species that have been captured or picked / increased risk of extinction | Medium | ↗ |
| | | Visitation and use of the local clinic for minor medical treatment | Increased burden on the local clinic | | |
| | | Peeping into private houses in the local villages | Violation of local residents' privacy | | |
| | | Entry into sacred places such as Utaki and places of festivals | Disturbance to local culture and customs | | |
| | | Walking around in swimsuits in the local villages | Deteriorated public morals and increased discomfort to local residents' life | | |
| | Load caused by activities | Trekking and walking | Disturbance to commercial hunting and agricultural activities due to visitors entering hunting grounds and/or farmland / damaged hunting tools and agricultural tools | | |
| | | Wildlife watching | Disturbance to turtles' spawning due to lighting on facilities and flashlights in the coastal area | | |
| | | | Deteriorated habitat environment of fireflies due to disorderly use of flashlights | | |
| | | Insect collection and fishing | Declined population of insects and/or fish that have been caught | | |
| | | Swimming, diving, snorkeling, and fishing | Disturbance to fisheries due to tourists swimming and/or boats at anchor in the fishing grounds | | |
| | | | Deteriorated water quality and habitat environment of marine life due to the use of chemical substances such as sunscreen and detergent | | |
| | | | Coral damage due to anchoring | | |
| | | Cave exploration and caving | Coral damage due to low-skill swimming | | |
| | | | Disturbance to the habitation of bats etc. due to tourists entering caves and using flashlights | | |

3. Tourism Management Goals and Policies

3.1 Overall goals of tourism management

In revising the Basic Visitor Management Plan for a Sustainable Iriomote Island, the following goals have been set for Iriomote Island tourism in consideration of consistency with superordinate plans and related plans.

**Protect the nature and life of the island that we are proud of
and pass them on to future generations,
controlling the impact of tourism on the environment and people's lives
and promoting responsible tourism that contributes to local society.**

3.2 Stakeholders' roles and action guidelines

To achieve the overall goals of tourism management on Iriomote Island, it is necessary for each stakeholder involved in tourism management on Iriomote Island, i.e., the government, tourism operators, visitors, and islanders, to have accurate understanding of the role it should play and the impact and effect of their actions and then promote the actions for tourism management that are set forth in this plan. The stakeholders' roles and action guidelines are described below. They are presented, will continue to be presented, to the attention not only of stakeholders and visitors both inside and outside the island, but also of the rest of the world, through appropriate measures, by the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council in coordination with the industry, government, academia, and citizens.

Government

The government bodies concerned with the tourism management on Iriomote Island should always assess and monitor the current status and trends of tourism on Iriomote Island and foreseeable impacts of tourism. They are responsible for taking necessary measures to preserve the value of the World Heritage property and reduce the impact of tourism on the natural environment, culture and life on Iriomote Island.

In addition, the relevant government bodies shall endeavor to share information with each other and shall endeavor to promptly implement necessary measures, fully mobilizing their resources under their jurisdiction in coordination and cooperation with each other.

Tourism operators

Operators engaged in tourism on Iriomote Island should be fully aware that their business activities may have an impact on the natural environment of Iriomote Island and the culture and life of the local community. They should make efforts to reduce the load that is caused by their activities. They are responsible for promoting tourism business that contributes to local society as well as the preservation of the World Heritage value as well as cultural value of Iriomote Island.

Visitors

People who visit and stay on Iriomote Island for sightseeing and other purposes should be fully aware that their activities may affect the natural environment of Iriomote Island and the culture and life of the local community. They should make efforts to control their activities in accordance with established rules and requirements. They should understand the value of Iriomote Island's World Heritage as well as local culture, respecting the lives of local residents and act responsibly.

Islanders

The islanders of Iriomote Island should be fully aware that the island's life and culture are supported by the rich natural environment and should maintain good relations on their own to pass them on to future generations. They are responsible for cooperating with the government bodies' legitimate measures for conservation of the island's nature and culture.

In addition, local residents should make efforts to warmly welcome responsible tourism by operators and visitors that contribute to the local community and make better use of the profit and benefit of tourism.

3.3 Basic policies for tourism management

To achieve the aforementioned overall goal of tourism management on Iriomote Island in light of the impacts of tourism and their assessment that were addressed in Chapter 2, Iriomote Island is divided into the areas within the heritage area and outside the heritage area, and basic policies of tourism management are presented for each area.

The basic policies for tourism management on Iriomote Island and management items for each area are shown in the figure below. For each management item, management criteria have been set up; management tools have been selected and management methods have been examined that are necessary to ensure effective management. As a result, it has been decided that tourism management is to be implemented on Iriomote Island in accordance with the framework shown in the table on the next page.

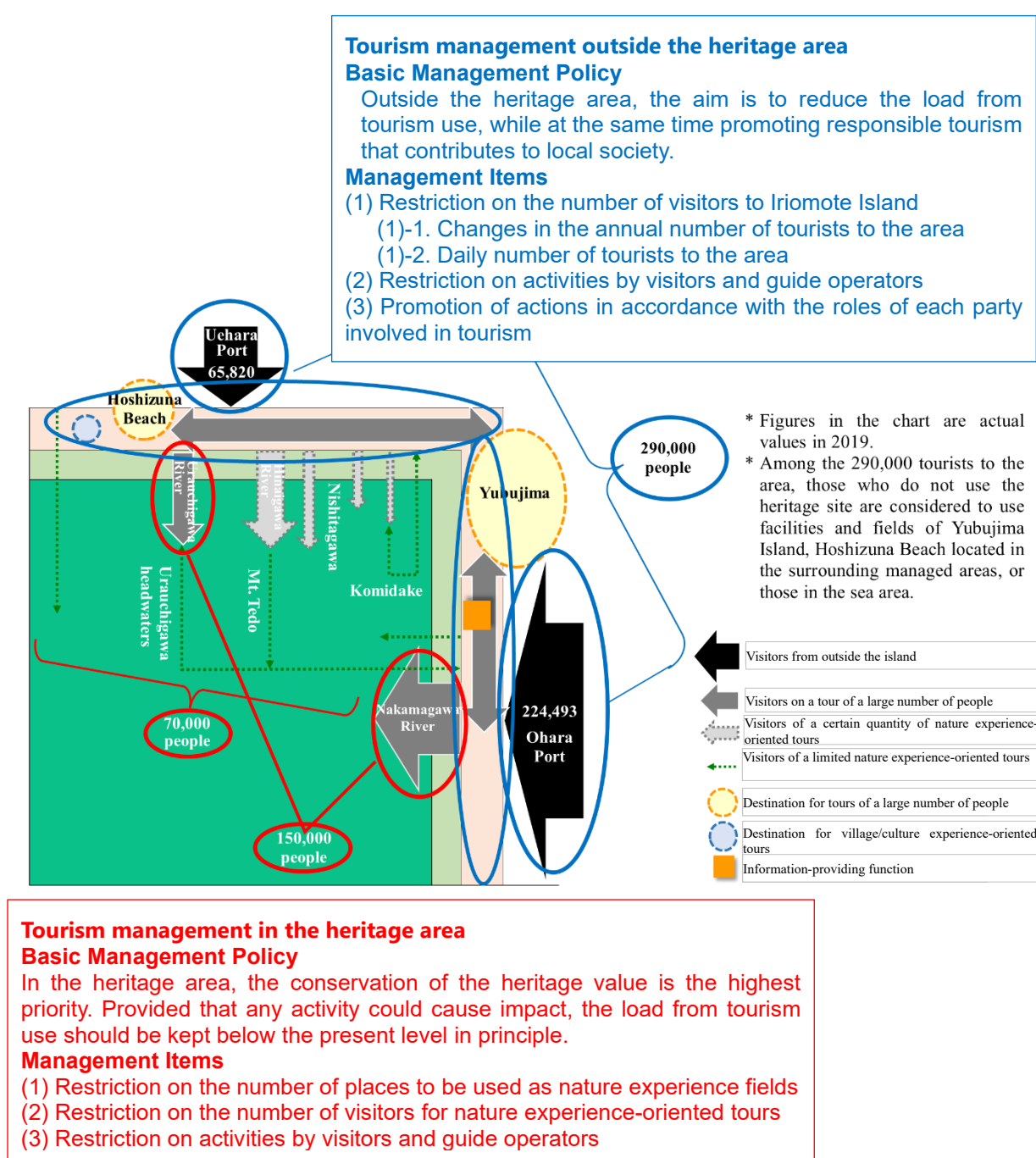


Figure: Framework and basic policies for tourism management on Iriomote Island

Table: Tourism management framework for Iriomote Island

| Management area | Management items | Management criteria | Management method |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Heritage area | Restricting the number of places that are used as nature experience fields | No increase in the number of places in the heritage area from the number of places that were actually used in 2019 (20 places) | To restrict tourism use based on the rule of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism (Ecotourism Promotion Act) providing that the protection zone “cannot be used for tourism in principle”. |
| | Restricting the number of visitors who seek nature experience-oriented tours | i. The number of visitors at places where concentrated tourism use occurs does not exceed: A. Hinai River: 200 people/day; B. Nishita River: 100 people/day. | To designate the relevant areas as specified natural tourism resources under the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism (Ecotourism Promotion Act) and limit the number of people who enter the designated areas by introducing a prior approval procedure for entry to these areas. |
| | | ii. The number of visitors to important habitats for rare plants and/or animals does not exceed: C. Komidake: 30 people/day; D. Urauchi River headwaters: 50 people/day; E. Mt. Tedo: 30 people/day | |
| | | iii. The number of visitors to other fields for nature experience-oriented tours does not exceed: F. One operator per location/activity The maximum number of visitors per guide is to be decided | To require compliance with tourism use rules of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism (Ecotourism Promotion Act) in the provisions of the Tourist Guide Ordinance, which makes violators subject to administrative penalties, and thereby restrict guide operators’ conduct and obligate guide operators to manage visitors’ conduct. |
| | Restricting activities by visitors and guide operators | The general rules for guide operators and specific rules for individual areas or activities specify what are banned or restricted. | |
| Outside the heritage area | Restricting the number of visitors to Iriomote Island | The annual number of tourists to the region does not increase by 10% or more as compared to that of the previous year. | To calculate the allowable limit for the following year based on the annual number of tourists to the region in the previous year, inform tourism stakeholders about the limit, and request necessary measures. When a large increase exceeding the allowable limit is ascertained or is likely to happen, the Iriomote Island Subcommittee examines and re-evaluates the magnitude of foreseen impact. The subcommittee make arrangements and requests for necessary measures to be taken. |
| | | The number of visitors per day to the region does not exceed 1,200 people/day. *The standard figure is to be reviewed in light of the fluctuation in the ratio of overnight visitors. | To create and publish the Ethical Tourism Calendar, which forecasts congestion on Iriomote Island based on the most recent daily number of visitors. To encourage tourists to plan their visits during low seasons by strengthening information transmission. To organize liaison and coordination meetings with tourism-related business operators who transport visitors to Iriomote Island for coordination to stabilize the number of visitors and mitigate congestion. |
| | Restricting activities by visitors and guide operators | The speed of vehicles that run on the island is limited to 40 km/h or less. | To continue patrols and surveillance by management organizations, NPOs, etc., in addition to patrols and enforcement by the police, and conduct awareness-raising activities for visitors, tourism operators, and islanders. |
| | | The tourism use rules for general visitors specify what are banned or restricted. The general rules for guide operators and specific rules for individual areas or activities specify what are banned or restricted. | To require compliance with tourism use rules of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism (Ecotourism Promotion Act) in the provisions of the Tourist Guide Ordinance, which makes violators subject to administrative penalties, and thereby restrict guide operators’ conduct and obligate guide operators to manage visitors’ conduct. |
| | Promoting actions in accordance with the roles of stakeholders involved in tourism | Target actions to be promoted by stakeholders involved in tourism are determined in accordance with their roles. i. Government: Infrastructure development that contributes to reducing tourism impact ii. Tourism operators: Provision of tourism products and services that contribute to reducing burden and enhancing social benefit iii. Visitors: Payment for the social costs associated with tourism activities iv. Islanders: Minimization of environmental load associated with daily life and industry | To introduce and utilize user-pays mechanisms and other programs, such as recognition and support to good practices, and promote the action of the relevant stakeholders through the operation of these mechanisms and programs, to ensure consistency and coherence among the different stakeholders. To make use of tourism to enhance the environmental, social, and economic values of Iriomote Island. |

4. Major Initiatives to Realize Sustainable Tourism

In accordance with the aforementioned framework of tourism management, specific initiatives and projects to be implemented have been identified: the table below lists them together with information about the implementing entities, outlines of the content, and years for implementation.

Major Initiatives and Projects Based on the Tourism Management Plan (Heritage Area)

| Management area | Management items | Initiatives and project names | Implementing entity | Outline of initiatives and projects | Year | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--|--|--------|------|--------|
| | | | | | - 2021 | 2022 | 2023 - |
| Heritage area | Restricting the number of sites used as a nature experience field | | | In order to realize the orderly use of fields for nature experience-oriented tours with little impact on the natural environment, we formulated the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island (hereinafter referred to as the "Overall Concept") , which describes the rules and control methods for proper tourism use as follows. Following the approval by the national government in ● 2022, we established an enforceable mechanism for proper use based on the Ecotourism Promotion Act. In addition, we will make the rules, etc. known through the website of the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council to operate the Overall Concept properly. (i) Limiting the tourism use of sites by zoning We divided Iriomote Island into a "nature experience zone," "general zone" and "protection zone," and established usage policies for each zone. As a general rule, the protection zone will not be available for tourism. (ii) Restricting the number of sites and visitors under the designation of natural tourism resources and management of activities We designated a field for nature experience-oriented tours on Iriomote Island as a "natural tourism resource," and specified restrictions on the available areas, the number of people who can be guided by one operator or one guide, and prohibitions and activity restrictions for the conservation of the natural environment and safety management as a rule for general users and guide operators. In addition, the Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town stipulates the duty to comply with the rules to ensure their effectiveness. (iii) Pre-entry application and limit on visitors under the designation of the specified natural tourism resources Designated the five fields (Hinaigawa, Nishitagawa, Komidake, Uraichigawa headwaters, and Mt. Tedo), for which it is necessary to take measures for protection owing to particular concerns about the impact of tourism use, as specified natural tourism resources, set the maximum number of visitors per day in accordance with the Ecotourism Promotion Law to ensure compliance with the limitation and the rules. (iv) Monitoring and evaluation of utilization impacts In order to confirm and improve the effectiveness and validity of the Overall Concept, monitoring will be conducted on the status of tourism use and the natural environment, the quality of tourism use, and relationships with local communities. ○ Monitoring method: In addition to detailed monitoring that regularly identifies and evaluates scientific and objective impacts, a simplified monitoring about once a year will be conducted in cooperation with guide operators. ○ Implementation system: Administrative organizations, local related organizations, guide operators, etc. divide their roles to conduct monitoring surveys in cooperation with local researchers and experts. ○ Evaluation methods and reflection of the results: The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee composed of experts, researchers, administrative organs, etc. are established within the Promotion Council, and the Committee appropriately evaluates the monitoring results and reports the evaluation results to the Promotion Council every year. Based on the evaluation reports from the said Committee, the Promotion Council will examine and coordinate the implementation of concrete conservation measures to conserve natural tourism resources. | | | |
| | Restricting the number of visitors through nature experience-oriented tours | Operation of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island | Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | | | | |
| | Restrict activities by visitors and guide operators | Operation of the Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town | Taketomi Town | The Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town (and its enforcement regulations) came into effect in April 2020, imposing on guide operators who conduct tourist guide businesses utilizing natural resources in the land area of Iriomote Island (including river and coastal areas) the duty for obtaining a license from the mayor of Taketomi Town. As a result, a system was established to secure and develop high-quality guides rooted in the region. Provisions of Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town (Excerpt) • Requirements for applying for a license: Business performance on Iriomote Island, certification of emergency life-saving training, certification of membership of community centers on Iriomote Island (or prima facie showing of results of regional development, etc.), and training, etc. specified in regulations • Rules and obligations to be observed by tourist guides: Explanation of precautions for use to users, carrying and presenting licenses, reporting on destruction of the natural environment, etc. • Guidance, recommendations, etc.: Guidance, recommendations, orders and public announcement measures for violators • Administrative action: If a tourist guide violates this ordinance or related laws and regulations, it is possible to order the guide to suspend its business for a certain period of time or revoke the license. *As of 2022, coordination with the Public Prosecutor's Office is ongoing toward the revision of the ordinance, including the addition of penal provisions. | | | |
| | Enhance measures to reduce impacts and public awareness activities | | Ministry of the Environment Forestry Agency Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Relevant organization | The following projects and initiatives will be implemented to develop fields and raise public awareness necessary to reduce loads on the natural environment caused by tourism in the heritage site. (i) Maintenance and improvement of sidewalks, decks, toilets, mooring facilities, parking lots, etc. (ii) Installation of explanatory plates, signs, gates, etc., indicating area designations, action restrictions, etc. (iii) Efforts to establish portable toilet booths, maintain them, and promote their use (iv) Raising awareness of preventing collection of rare species and invasion of alien species (v) Dissemination and enlightenment of usage rules in ports, base facilities, websites, etc. | | | |

Major Initiatives and Projects Based on Tourism Management Plans (Outside the Heritage Area)

| Management area | Management items | Initiatives and project names | Implementing entity | Outline of initiatives and projects | Year | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|----------------|---|---|
| | | | | | - 2021 | 2022 | 2023 - |
| Outside the heritage area | Restricting the number of visitors to Iriomote Island | Building a public-private partnership system based on an agreement | Ministry of the Environment Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Private businesses | <p>The Ministry of the Environment, Okinawa Amami Nature and Environment Office, Okinawa Prefecture, Taketomi Town, and three shipping companies concluded the Agreement on Sustainable Tourism Management on Iriomote Island in March 2020, and established a system to implement the following measures toward the realization of sustainable tourism management under public-private partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts to achieve the standard value of visitor capacity on Iriomote Island Efforts to encourage tourists to come to Iriomote Island in order to disperse and equalize the timing of their visits Efforts to secure sea routes for life and eliminate congestion on Iriomote Island Efforts to disseminate and enlighten tourist rules and manners on Iriomote Island Efforts related to information sharing and monitoring of the number of tourists to Iriomote Island Other matters consistent with the objectives of the Agreement | ● | March 2020 Conclusion of the Agreement | |
| | | Preparation and publication of the Ethical Tourism Calendar | Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Ministry of the Environment Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council Private businesses | <p>In order to disperse and equalize the timing of visits by suppressing the number of tourists entering the area during peak hours, we will create and publish the Ethical Tourism Calendar (tentative name) to make visitors aware of the information on the times of congestion and encourage them to take actions of avoiding the concentration of tourism use and of restraining from going voluntarily.</p> <p>(i) Study on methods for creating and publishing the Ethical Tourism Calendar The Okinawa prefectural government will study ways to create and publish the Ethical Tourism Calendar and coordinate and reach an agreement with relevant parties.</p> <p>(ii) Tabulation and reporting of daily traffic data Shipping companies operating regular routes will compile data on the daily number of passengers and report the data to Taketomi Town every month.</p> <p>(iii) Tabulation and provision of data on daily number of visitors Taketomi Town will compile daily data on the number of regular route users of the islanders and town office staff, and (i) subtract this from the data to compile the number of daily tourists and provide it monthly to the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council.</p> <p>(iv) Tabulation and provision of daily number of visitors by nature experience field The Ministry of the Environment will collect counter data for each field of nature experience, tabulate the daily number of visitors for each field, and provide it to the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council every month.</p> <p>(v) Creation and publication of the Ethical Tourism Calendar The Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council creates and updates the Ethical Tourism Calendar every month, which predicts the congestion situation of excursion-based tourism and nature experience-oriented tours on Iriomote Island using the most recent data of daily visitors and of daily visitors by field provided by Taketomi Town and the Ministry of the Environment, and publicizes it through the websites of the Council and shipping companies to make it known to tourists.</p> | Consideration | Implementation | Implementation |
| | | Operator adjustment to disperse and equalize the number of tourists entering the area | Okinawa Prefecture Private businesses | In order to limit the number of tourists to Iriomote Island per day to the standard value, business operators such as shipping companies, travel agents, and airlines that are responsible for transporting tourists to Iriomote Island will cooperate and hold regular meetings to consider and coordinate specific measures for mass tour tourists during the period when a high concentration of tourism use is expected, based on information in the Ethical Tourism Calendar and advance reservation information by each operator. | Consideration | Implementation | Implementation |
| | Restrict activities by visitors and guide operators | Operation of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island | Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | (Reshown) The details of the projects and initiatives are as described in the same item in the heritage area. | Consideration | ● | Overall Concept certification Implementation |
| | | Operation of the Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town | Taketomi Town | (Reshown) The details of the projects and initiatives are as described in the same item in the heritage area. | ● | April 2020 Enforcement of ordinances and enforcement regulations | Implementation |
| | | Attention to reduce vehicle speed | Yaeyama Police Station | Under the Road Traffic Law, the police control the speed limit of 40 km/h or less for vehicles on the Island and apply punitive provisions to offenders. | Implementation | | |
| | | | Ministry of the Environment Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town NPO Private businesses | <p>Management organizations, NPOs and companies will work together to encourage tourists and others to reduce vehicle speeds by continuing to implement the following operations.</p> <p>(i) Implementation of patrols and monitoring activities</p> <p>(ii) Installation of warning signs and posters</p> <p>(iii) Installation of road markings, speed reduction zones, speed warning devices, etc.</p> <p>(iv) Raising awareness of rules through handouts, SNS, etc.</p> <p>(v) Explanation of rules and precautions when renting a car</p> | Implementation | | |
| | | | Okinawa Prefecture | Transmission devices are installed in vehicles owned by rental car companies on Iriomote Island, and the number of cars running, sections, speeds, etc. of the rental cars are measured by using receivers installed on roads in the island in order to assess the data on sections, time, etc. of excessive speed and reflect it in the methods for effective operations. | Consideration | Implementation | |

| Management area | Management items | Initiatives and project names | Implementing entity | Outline of initiatives and projects | Year | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|--------|
| | | | | | - 2021 | 2022 | 2023 - |
| Outside the heritage area | Promote actions in accordance with the responsibilities of each party involved in tourism | Enhance measures to reduce impacts | Ministry of the Environment Forestry Agency Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Private businesses Relevant organization | The following operations and efforts are implemented to reduce loads on the natural environment caused by tourists' stay and activities and the lives and industries of residents, and to improve facilities, expand functions, and strengthen maintenance and management necessary to mitigate the impact on residents' lives. (i) Maintenance and enhancement of toilet facilities and purification functions at ports and sites (ii) Developing and encouraging utilization of tourist reception facilities in the surrounding management areas (iii) Securing a means of transportation within the island with less environmental load and roadkill (iv) Efforts to reduce congestion in liner ships and harbor parking lots (v) Strengthening the functions of waste, sludge, and sewage treatment facilities (vi) Reduction of waste such as PET bottles (vii) Promotion of cleanups and beautification of coastal debris (viii) Disaster and accident prevention measures (installation of warning signs, establishment of rescue and communication systems, etc.) | Consideration | Implementation as needed | |
| | | Establishment and operation of the Taketomi Town Visitor Tax Ordinance (tentative name) on taxes to be borne by users | Taketomi Town Ministry of the Environment Okinawa Prefecture | The Taketomi Town Visitor Tax (tentative name) shall be established and properly operated as a system to collect revenue for the costs necessary for the development of infrastructure and environmental conservation projects that contribute to the reduction of loads and impacts from tourism on the natural environment as the responsibility and burden of tourists. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | Use of Good Practice (Eco-Certification) System (tentative name) | Relevant organization | We will promote activities that contribute to the promotion of responsible tourism and to the region by providing incentives to tourism operators and islanders by utilizing a system that evaluates the state of efforts to reduce loads on the natural environment and contribute to the local community for guide operators, tourism operators such as lodging businesses, restaurants, and transportation businesses, and islanders, and certifies, awards, and publicizes qualified business operators who meet certain standards and those who implement excellent activities. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | Establishment and operation of the Iriomote Foundation , a regional management organization responsible for tourism management | Relevant organization | In order to preserve the natural environment of Iriomote Island and protect the island's culture and operations, the Iriomote Foundation was established as a dedicated organization for local residents to take the lead in solving Iriomote Island's problems. • Implementation of projects, such as operation of the license system for guides based on the Tourist Guide Ordinance and human resource development • Implementation of management projects to enforce entry regulations and rules based on the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism • Constant management of the secretariat of the Promotion Council based on the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism • Implementation of conservation projects through the use of funds under the user contribution system • Implementation of monitoring of utilization impacts and results of conservation projects | November 2021 Iriomote Foundation established Consideration | Implementation as needed | |
| | | Development of facilities for dissemination and enlightenment | Wildlife Conservation Center | The Ministry of the Environment will renew the content of the exhibition through a major renovation of the Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center, while Okinawa prefectural government will strengthen its human resources to provide guidance for and explain the exhibition, thereby enhancing public awareness on the protection of wild animals, such as a Iriomote wildcat, and proper tourism. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | | Heritage Center | The World Heritage Center, which will function to provide exhibitions and explanations, education and learning, information dissemination, and conservation management related to Iriomote Island's World Natural Heritage, will be established in the eastern area, which is the gateway to Iriomote Island. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | | Field Center | Establish a field center in the western area of Iriomote Island with functions such as informing users of rules, bases for field management activities, and disseminating and raising awareness of heritage values. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | Dissemination of rules and manners | Ministry of the Environment Forestry Agency Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Private businesses | In order to reduce loads on the natural environment and give appropriate consideration to local communities and residents, the following measures will be implemented on an ongoing basis to disseminate the rules and manners to be observed by tourists and to promote responsible behavior. (i) Distribution of pamphlets, etc. at ports, base facilities, accommodation facilities, restaurants, etc. (ii) Screening of educational videos on airplanes and liner ships, etc. (iii) Posting rules and manners on websites, SNSs, etc. | Consideration | Implementation | |
| | | Centralization of collection and dissemination of various information related to tourism | Ministry of the Environment Forestry Agency Okinawa Prefecture Taketomi Town Relevant organization Private businesses | In order to collect various kinds of information on Iriomote Island tourism (tourism management conditions, current status of tourism resources, actual conditions and trends of utilization, etc.) from various directions, and to organize and integrate them into a form that is easy to use, and to disseminate it to a wide range of targets, strengthen cooperation among the parties, and build a platform for centralized management and the dissemination of information. | Consideration | Implementation | |

The tables below are checklists, which have been used to ensure that tourism management measures to be implemented based on this plan appropriate management tools address the foreseeable tourism impacts.

Table: Tourism impacts on Iriomote Island and the checklist of management tools (within the heritage area)

| Management area | Impact factors | Foreseeable impacts (threats) | Impact assessment | | Management tools | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Risk assessment | Trend assessment | Natural Parks Law | Protected forest system | Ecotourism Promotion Act | Taketomi Town Tourist Guide Ordinance | Road Traffic Act | Maintenance measures and infrastructure development | User fees (Visiting Tax Ordinance) | Good practices (eco-certification system) | Public-private sector agreement and coordination meetings Management organization | Promotion and enlightenment (including establishment of bases) | Information dissemination (including tourism calendars) |
| Impact within the heritage area | Increase in the number of places that are used for tourism within the heritage area | Reduced primeval areas free of human impact / Wider, accumulative, and compound human impact / Inhibited growth of highly rare species | High | ↗ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Increase in the number of visitors entering the heritage area Concentrated tourism use at specific locations and times | Damage to places vulnerable to human activities and environmental degradation / Inhibited growth of rare species / Decreased visitor safety / Decreased quality and satisfaction of visitor experience | High | ↗ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Irresponsible conduct of visitors and guide operators | Capture of rare animals and picking of rare plants | High | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Dumping of garbage | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Human waste in the field | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Invasive alien species and pets | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Spread of infection among wild animals such as wildcats | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Feeding of wild animals | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Disorderly abandonment of canoes etc. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Load caused by activities | Trekking | High | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Canoe, kayak, etc. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Activities at streams and waterfalls, canyoning | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Wildlife watching, fishing, collection, etc. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Motorboat tours | Soil erosion and impact on mangroves due to ship waves of motorboats | Low | ↘ | ✓ | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |

Table: Tourism impacts on Iriomote Island and the corresponding checklist of management tools (outside the heritage area)

| Management area | Impact factors | | Assumed impacts (threats) | Assessment of the impacts | | Administrative tools | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | Risk assessment | Trend assessment | Natural Parks Law | Protected forest system | Ecotourism Promotion Act | Taketomi Town Tourist Guide Ordinance | Road Traffic Act | Maintenance measures and infrastructure development | User fees (Visiting Tax Ordinance) | Good practices (eco-certification system) | Public-private sector agreement and coordination meetings Management organization | Promotion and enlightenment (including establishment of bases) | Information dissemination (including tourism calendars) |
| Impact outside the heritage area | Development for tourism | Facility construction, landform change, cutting of trees, etc. | Habitat loss and habitat environment change Invasion of alien species / landscape disturbance | Low | ➡ | ✓ | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total number of visitors to Iriomote Island, concentrated tourism use at specific times, increase in the number of individual tourists | Use of the liner by visitors Occupation of parking lots by tourism operators etc. | Congestion on the liner ships and at the ports / decreased comfort and satisfaction of visitors (crowded toilets, bad atmosphere, hurried tour, etc.) / disturbance to local residents' life (for example, local people cannot board the liner or park vehicles at the port). | Medium | ➡ | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Load on the island's infrastructure by visitors | Water supply restriction to local people due to shortage of water resource Increased load and cost of sewage and waste treatment | Medium | ➡ | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| | | Increase in accidents caused by visitors | Increased burden on local fire brigades and residents for transport and search activities | High | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | Increased traffic and excessive speed on roadways | Traffic accidents and roadkill of wild animals such as wildcats Occurrence of traffic accidents and decreased safety of local residents' life | High | ↗ | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | Irresponsible conduct of visitors and tourism operators | Capture of rare animals and picking of rare plants | Declined population of rare species that have been captured or picked / increased risk of extinction | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Visitation and use of the local clinic for minor medical treatment | Increased burden on the local clinic | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Peeping into private houses in the local villages | Violation of local residents' privacy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Entry into sacred places such as Utaki and places of festivals | Disturbance to local culture and customs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Walking around in swimsuits in the local villages | Deteriorated public morals and increased discomfort to local residents' life | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Load caused by activities | Trekking and walking | Disturbance to commercial hunting and agricultural activities due to visitors entering hunting grounds and/or farmland / damaged hunting tools and agricultural tools | Medium | ↗ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Wildlife watching | Disturbance to turtles' spawning due to lighting on facilities and flashlights in the coastal area | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| | | | Deteriorated habitat environment of fireflies due to disorderly use of flashlights | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Insect collection and fishing | Declined population of insects and/or fish that have been caught | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Swimming, diving, snorkeling, and fishing | Disturbance to fisheries due to tourists swimming and/or boats at anchor in the fishing grounds | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Deteriorated water quality and habitat environment of marine life due to the use of chemical substances such as sunscreen and detergent | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Coral damage due to anchoring | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Coral damage due to low-skill swimming | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cave exploration and caving | Disturbance to the habitation of bats etc. due to tourists entering caves and using flashlights | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

5. Implementation of Monitoring and Progress Management of the Plan

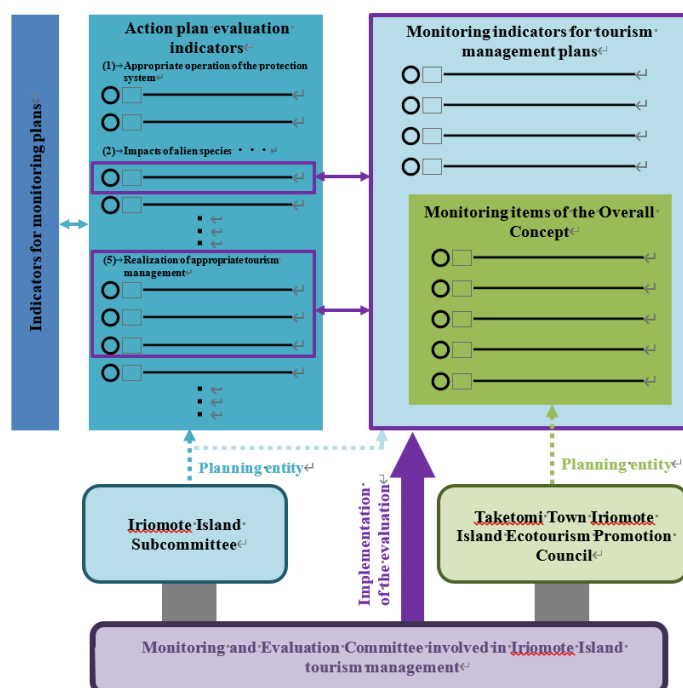
5.1 Monitoring and evaluation system

To achieve the overall goals of tourism management of this plan, the status of achievement of management criteria will be periodically monitored and evaluated together with the magnitude of tourism impact on the natural environment and local communities and the status of implementation of the related actions and projects. Based on the results, adaptive responses will be made, for example revising management criteria and strengthening measures to address issues.

Indicators for monitoring and evaluation have been set out in the monitoring plans related to the World Natural Heritage Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, the northern part of Okinawa Island, and the Iriomote Island, and the Iriomote Island Action Plan, which is superordinate to this plan, also has indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of management. In addition, the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island, which is a related plan of this plan, has its monitoring items. Many of them overlap with the monitoring indicators to be set forth in this plan. Therefore, this plan aims to achieve efficient monitoring and evaluation in consistency with these indicators.

In consideration of the relationship between this plan and other plans, monitoring indicators have been set up for this plan to cover the monitoring items of the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island. In addition, for consistency, some of the monitoring indicators of this plan have been chosen, so that the evaluation indicators of the monitoring plan for the entire heritage area and the Iriomote Island Action Plan can be used.

To monitor and evaluate this plan, the Committee for Monitoring and Evaluation of Tourism on Iriomote Island (hereinafter referred to as “Monitoring and Evaluation Committee”) has been jointly established under the Iriomote Island Subcommittee, which is responsible for formulating and managing this plan and the Iriomote Island Action Plan, and the Taketomi Town Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council, which is responsible for formulating and managing the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island as a Whole. The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will periodically check and evaluate the monitoring indicators for both plans and report and provide advice to the Iriomote Island Subcommittee.



5.2 Management of the progress of plan

After the completion of this plan, the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will be organized periodically to check and evaluate monitoring indicators, and report and provide advice to the Iriomote Island Subcommittee on the evaluation results. Based on the report and advice of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, the Iriomote Island Subcommittee will revise and update, as necessary, the content of major actions that are contained in this plan.

This plan will be reviewed five years after the completion of this plan. The Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will review the content of the plan in general and make recommendations and requests of revisions to management methods, management criteria, etc. as necessary. The Iriomote Island Subcommittee will review and revise this plan, as necessary based on the recommendations and requests from the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

After that, this plan will be continuously checked and reviewed every five years. In the meantime, the Iriomote Island Subcommittee will periodically check data on monitoring indicators, and if there is any matter of concern, it will seek opinions and advice from the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

5.3 Monitoring indicators

The monitoring indicators in the Plan are classified into “management indicators” for achieving management criteria, “impact indicators” for evaluating the magnitude of tourism impact on the natural environment and local communities, and “related indicators” for monitoring the progress of related actions and projects, as follows:

■ Management indicators

- In accordance with the management criteria of the Plan itself, the implementation status and the degree of achievement of the Tourism Management Plan will be verified quantitatively by means of specified measurement methods.
- The Iriomote Island Subcommittee will consider measures to be taken in the event that the management criteria set in this plan are exceeded.

■ Impact indicators

- To ascertain the extent to which major negative impacts that are assumed to have resulted from tourism have occurred.
- If the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee has determined that a serious impact has occurred, the Iriomote Island Subcommittee will consider measures to be taken.

■ Related indicators

- To monitor not tourist management itself, but changes in tourism that occur as a result of tourism management measures, such as the ripple effects of tourism on local economy and the quality of tourism.
- To keep data on the latest situation up to date continuously based on monitoring indicators and share the results with relevant organizations through the Iriomote Island Subcommittee.

Table: Tourism management plan monitoring items

| Management category | Type | Monitoring indicators | Implementing entity | Frequency | Monitoring method | Monitoring plan* | Action plan indicator* | Overall Concept* |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Heritage area | Management indicators | The number of sites in the heritage area | Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | Every year | The Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council ascertains the exact number of fields within the heritage area with the natural tourism resources listed in the Overall Concept and that have at least the same level of tourism use. | — | — | — |
| | Management indicators | Number of visitors entering areas of specified natural tourism resources | Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | Every year | The Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council ascertains the exact number of visitors through a pre-entry approval system managed by the council. Until the system is introduced, the Council ascertains the exact number of visitors in the same manner as other natural tourism resources. | 4-(1)-17(vi) | — | ○ |
| | Management indicators | Number of visitors entering other natural tourism resources | Ministry of the Environment Taketomi Town | Every year | The entities ascertain the exact number of visitors using user counters installed by the Ministry of the Environment or receiving reports from guides based on the Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town. | 4-(1)-17(vi) | — | ○ |
| | Management indicators | Compliance with rules by guide operators and users | Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | Every year | The Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council ascertains the exact number of penalties to guide operators and users based on the Ordinance Concerning Tourism Guides in Taketomi Town or the Ecotourism Promotion Act. | — | Short-term (ix) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Status of alien species invasion | Ministry of the Environment | Every year | The Ministry of the Environment collects information obtained through surveys conducted by government agencies and research institutions and information confirmed by guides at sites to ascertain the status of alien species invasion, etc. | 3-(1)-16 (i) | Short-term (ii) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Vegetation conditions along routes | Ministry of the Environment | Every year | The Ministry of the Environment takes fixed-point photographs and measures sidewalk widths along major routes to monitor changes in the natural environment around the routes. | 4-(2)-18 (ii) | Short-term (xi) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Vegetation conditions along routes (details) | Ministry of the Environment / University of the Ryukyus Iriomote Station | Once every five years | The Ministry of the Environment and the Iriomote Station of University of the Ryukyus jointly conduct plant surveys in fixed-point study areas along major routes of tourism use to understand the conditions of treading on vegetation, the extent of roads, and changes in vegetation around the sites. | 4-(2)-18 (ii) | Short-term (xi) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Water quality in major waterfall basins | Ministry of the Environment | Every year | The Ministry of the Environment conducts water quality surveys (numbers of BOD, SS, and fecal coliforms) at major waterfall basins and other sites in use. | — | — | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Habitat of fish in major waterfall basins | Ministry of the Environment | Once every 1-3 years | The Ministry of the Environment conducts a visual survey of fish species and populations in major waterfall basins by skin diving. | — | — | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Habitat of fish in major rivers | Ministry of the Environment / University of the Ryukyus Iriomote Station | Once every five years | The Ministry of the Environment and the Iriomote Station of the University of the Ryukyus work together to sample water from major rivers in use and analyze the environmental DNA contained in these samples to identify living species and taxa. | — | — | ○ |
| Outside the heritage area | Management indicators | Annual number of tourists to Iriomote Island | Taketomi Town | Every year | The Taketomi Town compiles and ascertains the number of tourists who entered Iriomote Island throughout the year based on the daily number of passengers, etc. reported by shipping companies and data on the daily number of regular route users of islanders and town office staff. | 4-(1)-17(i) | Short-term (viii) | ○ |
| | Management indicators | Daily number of tourists to Iriomote Island | Taketomi Town | Every year | The Taketomi Town compiles and ascertains the number of tourists who entered Iriomote Island throughout the year based on the daily number of passengers, etc. reported by shipping companies and data on the daily number of regular route users of islanders and town office staff. | — | Short-term (viii) | ○ |
| | Management indicators | Vehicle speed on the island | Okinawa Prefecture | Every year | The prefectural government collects data from Bluetooth sensors installed along prefectural roads on Iriomote Island to monitor the traffic volume and vehicle speed of all vehicles and rental cars. | — | — | — |
| | Management indicators | (Reshown) Compliance with rules by guide operators and users | Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council | Every year | (Reshown) The Iriomote Island Ecotourism Promotion Council ascertains the number of penalties to guide operators and users based on the Taketomi Town Tourist Guide Ordinance or the Ecotourism Promotion Act. | — | Short-term (ix) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | Traffic accidents involving Iriomote wildcats | Ministry of the Environment | Every year | The Ministry of the Environment conducts autopsies on dead or injured animals found through patrols and reports from municipalities and local residents to monitor trends in traffic accident damage. | 2-(1)-11 | Short term (iv) | — |
| | Impact indicators | (Reshown) Status of alien species invasion | Ministry of the Environment | Every year | (Reshown) Regarding the status of alien species invasion, the Ministry of the Environment will collect and assess information obtained through surveys by government agencies and research institutions and information confirmed by guides at sites. | 3-(1)-16 (ii) | Short term (iii) | ○ |
| | Impact indicators | The number and rate of visits to medical institutions by tourists | Okinawa Prefecture | Every year | The Okinawa prefectural government compiles data on medical examinations at clinics on Iriomote Island to ascertain the number and percentage of people who live outside the island. | — | — | — |
| | Impact indicators | The number of distress calls and accidents on the island and of personnel who responded | Taketomi Town | Every year | Taketomi Town ascertains the exact number of rescue operations and the number of rescuers involved in mountain rescues in the town (i.e., rescue of disaster victims in mountains or rivers on Iriomote Island). | — | — | — |
| | Impact indicators | Congestion of liner ships | (TBD) | Every year | (To be announced) ○○○ compiles and assesses data on congestion rates based on the data on the daily number of passengers and capacities of operated ships collected from shipping companies. | — | — | — |
| | Impact indicators | Amount of waste discharged | Taketomi Town | Every year | (To be announced) Taketomi Town assesses data on the amount of waste by item generated on Iriomote Island. | — | — | — |
| | Impact indicators | Water quality in major ports | Okinawa Prefecture | Every year | (To be announced) The Okinawa prefectural government monitors the results of a water quality surveys of public waters conducted at major ports on Iriomote Island. | — | — | — |
| | Related indicators | User awareness (satisfaction, understanding of heritage value, etc.) | Okinawa Prefecture | Once every 3-5 years | The prefectural government monitors user satisfaction, thoughts of revisiting, and understanding of heritage value through questionnaire surveys, etc. | — | Mid-term D | ○ |
| | Related indicators | Occurrence of accidents during nature experience-oriented tours | Taketomi Town | Every year | (To be announced) Taketomi Town ascertains the number of accidents in nature experience-oriented tours in accordance with the details of reports from guide operators. | — | Short-term (x) | — |
| | Related indicators | Population and occupancy rate of Iriomote Island's tourism industry workers (accommodation, transportation, food and beverage, goods sales, guides) living on the island | Taketomi Town | Once every five years | The Taketomi Town ascertains the number of people working in the tourism industry on Iriomote Island based on census data. In addition, the Town ascertains the number of people living on the island and the rate of residence of the islands guides based on the license information in the Tourist Guide Ordinance. | — | Mid-term C | — |
| | Related indicators | Average number of guests | Taketomi Town | Once every five years | Taketomi Town ascertains the rate of tourists staying on Iriomote Island based on data from statistical surveys of tourist arrivals. | — | Mid-term E | — |

* The Monitoring Plan column indicates the index number of the monitoring index that is similar in content to the monitoring index of Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island World Natural Heritage Site Monitoring Program

* Action plan indicator column shows the item numbers of the management evaluation indicators whose content is similar to that of the Iriomote Island Action Plan.

* A circle (○) in the Overall Concept column indicates an item set as a monitoring item in the Overall Concept for Promoting Ecotourism of Iriomote Island