

Draft Motion  
July 19, 2004

## **Conservation of Dugong, Okinawa Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail in Japan**

RECOGNIZING that dugongs are now present in Japan only as a small, isolated population living exclusively in limited habitat around Okinawa Island, and that the Okinawa woodpecker and Okinawa rail are endemic land birds with small populations confined to the Yambaru woodland of Okinawa Island, and that all three species are classified as endangered (Dugong – CR D1, Mammalogical Society of Japan, 1997; Okinawa Woodpecker – CR, Okinawa Rail – EN, both Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2002);

Concerned that growing threats may accelerate the extinction of these three species – for the dugong, ongoing plans for constructing a joint United States military/Japanese civilian airport on landfill in the middle of their habitat together with entanglement in fishing nets, and for the Okinawa woodpecker and Okinawa rail, plans for constructing seven United States military helipads and connecting roads in their habitat area together with predation by introduced mongoose and feral cats;

Recalling Recommendation 2.72 “Conservation of Dugong, Okinawa Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail in and around Okinawa Island,” adopted by the Second World Conservation Congress (4–11 Oct. in Amman, Jordan), which urged completion of an environmental impact assessment of construction of the United States Marine Corps facility and of military exercises, and implementation of appropriate measures to ensure the survival of these three species;

Noting the warning in the UNEP report “Dugong Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories” (2002) that “Unless measures are undertaken to protect dugongs in the Okinawan region they will soon be extinct in Japanese waters;”

The World Conservation Congress at its third session held in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004:

**1. Urges the Government of Japan to;**

- a) In conducting the environmental impact assessment for the joint military/civilian airport planned in dugong habitat, consider several alternatives including a zero option, and also include pre-construction activities such as underwater drilling and seismic reflection surveys as items to be assessed,
- b) Undertake an environmental impact assessment that considers several alternatives including a zero option for the construction of United States military helipads and roads in the habitat of the Okinawa woodpecker and Okinawa rail,
- c) Immediately establish protected areas and draw up action plans for the conservation of the dugong, the Okinawa woodpecker and the Okinawa rail.

**2. Urges the Government of the United States of America to;**

- a) Confer with the Government of Japan with a view to protecting the environment and conserving species in relation the construction of United States military facilities in the habitat of endangered species in Okinawa, based on US military environmental management standards,
- b) Cooperate in the environmental impact assessments carried out by the Government of Japan for military base site construction by dispatching experts in the natural sciences.

**Proposed by:**

World Wide Fund for Nature - Japan ( WWF-Japan ) ; membership no. 477

The Nature Conservation Society of Japan (NACS-J) ; no. 92

The Institute of Regional Study, Okinawa University ; no. 1014

Wild Bird Society of Japan ( WBSJ ) ; no. 620

Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection ( JAWGP ) ; no. 1414

Elsa Nature Conservancy, Japan( ENC ) ; no. 630

Wildlife Rescue Veterinary Association-Japan( WRV ) ; no. 22357