

3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–25 November 2004) Adopted Recommendation

REC 3.114 Conservation of dugong *Dugong dugon*, Okinawa woodpecker *Sapheopipo noguchii*, and Okinawa rail *Gallirallus okinawae* in Japan

RECOGNIZING that only a small, isolated population of dugongs are present in Japan, that these inhabit exclusively a 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;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that all three species are classified as endangered¹ by Japanese authorities: dugong – Critically Endangered (CR) according to the Mammalogical Society of Japan, 1997, Okinawa woodpecker – Critically Endangered according to the Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2002, and Okinawa rail – Endangered according to the Ministry of Environment, Japan, 2002;

CONCERNED that growing threats may accelerate the extinction of these three species – for the dugong, plans for constructing a joint United States military/Japanese civilian airport on landfill in one of their critical habitats, together with entanglement in fishing nets; 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 (Dugong dugon), Okinawa Woodpecker (Sapheopipo noguchii) and Okinawa Rail (Gallirallus okinawae)* adopted at the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000), 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; and

WELCOMING that the Government of Japan has conducted surveys for the conservation of, and has taken some measures for the rescue of, the dugong, Okinawa woodpecker and Okinawa rail, and has decided to make utmost efforts to avoid substantial impact on the natural environment in construction of the joint military/civilian airport and US military helipads and roads in their habitat;

NOTING that the Government of Japan has started the environmental impact assessment in accordance with Japanese law; and

ALSO NOTING the warning of extinction in the report *Dugong Status Report and Action Plans for Countries and Territories* published in 2002 by the United Nations Environment Programme/Department of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP/DEWA);

The World Conservation Congress at its 3rd Session 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; and
- (c) immediately establish protected areas and draw up action plans for the conservation of the dugong, the Okinawa woodpecker and the Okinawa rail; and

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 to the construction of United States military facilities in the habitat of endangered species in Okinawa, based on US military environmental management standards; and
- (b) cooperate, if requested, in the environmental impact assessments carried out by the Government of Japan for military base site construction.

¹ Based on IUCN Species Survival Commission *Red List* categories and criteria for assessing status of species.