

Ogasawara Islands

The Ogasawara Islands are located about 1,000 km away from Tokyo to the south. They consist of about 30 islands of varying sizes that are surrounded by vertical cliffs and sea whose azure blue color is referred to as "Bonin Blue". The World Heritage property encompasses the Mukojima Island Group, the Chichijima Island Group, the Hahajima Island Group, Kita-iwoto Island, Minami-iwoto Island, and Nishinoshima Island, which has a total area of roughly 7,900 ha. For Chichijima and Hahajima Islands, a boundary that excludes settlements and some of the peripheral ocean areas surrounding them constitute the bounds of the World Heritage property.

* The Ogasawara Islands did not have any permanent residents until 1830, and so they were referred to as uninhabited islands (Bonin Islands).

L'archipel d'Ogasawara se situe à environ 1.000 km au sud de Tokyo. Il consiste en une trentaine d'îles de tailles variées entourées de falaises abruptes et d'une mer d'un bleu azur qui est parfois appelé aussi « bleu Bonin ». Le site inscrit sur la liste du patrimoine mondial comprend les chapelets d'îles de Mukojima, Chichijima et Hahajima ainsi que les îles de Kita-iwoto, Minami-iwoto et Nishinoshima. L'ensemble a une superficie d'environ 7.900 ha. En ce qui concerne les îles de Chichijima et Hahajima, le périmètre concerné exclut les zones habitées, mais inclut une partie des eaux environnantes.



Bonin flying fox

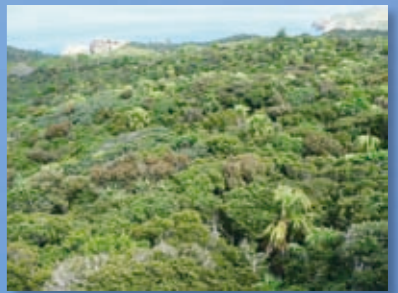
This is the sole mammal endemic to the Ogasawara Islands that belongs to the Pteropodidae family. The species has been confirmed on Chichijima Island, Hahajima Island, and the Kazan Island Group. Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened IB (EN)
*Species facing a high risk of extinction in the near future



< Ogasawara Islands > (Ogasawara Village)

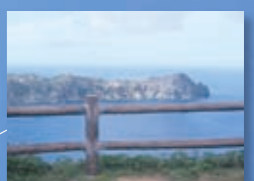


Sclerophyllous scrub
Sclerophyllous scrubs extend out primarily from Higashidaira on the central mountain of Chichijima Island and on Anijima Island. Endemic plants that grow here have evolved in such ways as changing the shape of their leaves to small and thick in conjunction with the dry climate, or being stunted to avoid strong coastal winds.



Ogasawara Visitor Center

This is a facility that introduces visitors to history and culture, with its primary focus on the nature in Ogasawara. It offers exhibitions and explanations related to the unique historical path the region has tread as a whaling base and an occupied territory, as well as on the rare plants and animals like the endemic species that can only be found in Ogasawara.



Nagasaki Observation Platform

Visitors can look out over the Anijima Strait where an azure blue sea called "Bonin Blue" stretches out, as well as Anijima Island and more.



Tokyo Metropolitan Government



Boninite

This is a unique rock that is only generated in the early period after an oceanic plate has begun to subduct. It was named after "Bonin Islands", where the largest quantities of the rock have been exposed from anywhere in the world.



Nummulite

These are large fossils of benthic foraminifera that are unicellular organisms. They get their name from their shape that resembles a coin.



Dendrocacalia crepidifolia

This species in the Asteraceae family is endemic to the Hahajima Island Group and can grow to a height of 4-5 m. It is believed to have evolved from an herbal plant into a woody plant over the course of speciation. Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened II (VU)
*Species facing a growing risk of extinction



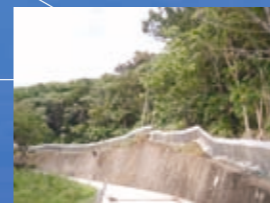
Whale watching

More than 23 species of dolphins and whales have been confirmed in the adjacent waters. Humpback whales can be observed here from winter until spring, while dolphin species and sperm whales can be observed year round.



Bonin honeyeater

This is the only species of land bird that is endemic to the Ogasawara Islands, and it only inhabits the 3 islands of Hahajima Island and its affiliated Mukojima and Imotojima islands. Since the bird has few competitors and predators, it makes use of various different places within the forests. Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened IB (EN)
*Species facing a high risk of extinction in the near future



Green anole enclosures

The green anole is an alien species that preys upon insects like *Celastrina ogasawaraensis* and dragonflies. Protection areas surrounded by enclosures to prevent incursions by green anoles have been established at Shinyuhigaoka and Minamizaki on Hahajima Island. Within the enclosures, sticky traps are used to eliminate green anoles so that these insects can live in a sustainable manner.



Land snail

More than 90 % of about 100 indigenous species of land snails are endemic to Ogasawara. New species still continue to be discovered to this day, which was one of the key evidences to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.



Subtropical rainforest

Subtropical rainforests were believed to have been distributed over an extensive region when the Ogasawara Islands were uninhabited. They have declined as a result of development, and now they can only be seen in humid environments in certain areas on Hahajima Island. Tall forest where the trees reach 20 m can be seen with its canopy comprised of plants like *Elaeocarpus photiniaefolius* as well as *Planchonella obovata*. *Morus boninensis*, which has currently become a rare species because it was used as lumber, can also be seen.



Submerged karst (Minamijima Island)

Across the entirety of Minamijima Island and Sekimon on Hahajima Island, visitors can see a karst landscape in which limestone has undergone erosion and weathering. The vicinity surrounding Minamijima Island is a unique location in Japan where a submerged karst landscape can be observed.



Feral cat and feral goat fences

Rare endemic plants and the endemic subspecies of Japanese wood pigeon occur on Higashidaira on Chichijima Island. Efforts are being made to create fences to protect endemic species from feral cats and feral goats, as well as to remove these alien species within the fences.



Columba janthina nitens

This is an endemic subspecies of Japanese wood pigeon that inhabits the inner forests on the Ogasawara Archipelago. Their numbers had once decreased due to predation by feral cats, but have been on the rise as a result of countermeasures against feral cats and other conservation activities. The pigeon is designated as Natural Monument in Japan. Red List of the Ministry of the Environment Threatened I A (CR)
*Species facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the very near future