

**Minutes of the 2nd Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of Prey
and Forest Concerning a New Test Course Development by Honda Motor**

1 Date and Time

17:00 ~ 19:35 April 9, 2007 Monday

2 Venue

Tochigi Prefecture General Culture Center

3 Attendee

Five committee members:

Chair, Tatsuhiro Ohkubo—Associate Professor of Faculty of Agriculture, Utsunomiya University

Member, Koichi Endo—Assistant District Leader of Tochigi Branch of Wild Bird Society of Japan

Member, Kazumi Suemoto—Researcher, Natural History Research

Member, Mitsutake Hayashi—Chief Researcher, Tochigi Prefectural Museum

Member, Takashi Matsuda—Vice President, Nature Conservation Group of Ujjiie

17 Organizing members

4 Agenda

- 1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting
- 2 Overview Vegetation Map and Aerial Photographs
- 3 Report on Committee Site-Inspections
- 4 Report on Updated Natural Environment Research
- 5 Explanation and Discussion on the New R&D Center Conservation Plan
- 6 Onward Plan (schedule and others)
- 7 About Publicizing Activities of the Review Committee

5 Minutes (summary)

Agenda

1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting

- The organizer side explained the minutes of the 1st meeting using relevant materials and confirmed that (1) some expressions and terms need to be corrected and (2) the main objective of natural environment conservation in the communities should be added.

2 Overview Vegetation Map and Aerial Photographs

- The organizer side explained vegetation classification and distribution status on planned development sites of the new R&D Center and the new Test Course and described three aerial photographs taken in 1947, 1975 and 2004 and changes based on materials. After discussion, the committee confirmed these changes of the sites and their surrounding areas and vegetation status.

3 Report on Committee Site-Inspections

- The organizer side reported on results of site-inspections at the two development sites and their surrounding areas using materials. Through discussion, all members gained a good understanding and the committee as a whole had no objection on the results.

4 Report on Updated Natural Environment Investigation

- Based on materials, the organizer side talked about (1) results on birds of prey investigation of wide area including the development sites and their surrounding areas and (2) a future investigation plan. The members shared following opinions based on this explanation:
 1. As for birds of prey in the wide area, in addition to one spot where their inhabitation was confirmed, there could be more inhabitation areas possible. Moreover, north side of the wide area might have birds of prey as well. At a next investigation in April, these areas with possibility should receive attention.
 2. Based on results of the next investigation in April, the organizer side will forest investigation candidate sites. Upon confirming these candidate sites by the committee members in early May, both the investigation sites and investigation details will be finalized.

3. Selection criteria of the investigation sites include the following: (1) wet paddies without farm land consolidation and (2) surrounded by broad-leaved deciduous forest. In short, there needs to be a good combination of these and storage reservoirs. As for investigation kick-off timing for amphibians and reptiles, as long as the focus is to determine what kinds of them are found, it can be anytime.

5 Explanation and Discussion on the New R&D Center Conservation Plan

- The organizer side explained about the conservation plan of the new R&D Center and moved to a Q&A and discussion session. The committee agreed that the conservation plan would be developed based on future investigation results.

6 Onward Plan (schedule and others)

- The organizer side described an onward plan—how to move forward with conservation activities—and the committee made the following comments:
 - ✧ We should consider both scarcity and representative species of that community environment to come up with a conservation target list
 - ✧ We should change our existing conservation slogan of “*Minimize* the impact level to inhabitants in the forest and waterside” to “*Avoid and minimize*.....”
 - ✧ We can talk about conservation targets after the target list of conservation is created

7 Publicizing Activities of the Review Committee

- The organizer side explained about a launch of HP where people can learn about the committee. The committee requested to make the link with HM HP more easy-to-understand and clear. English version was also requested.