

**Minutes of the 8th Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of
Prey and Forests Concerning New Test Course Development by Honda Motor**

1 Date and Time

17:00 ~ 19:00 April 16, 2008 Tuesday

2 Venue

New Mikura Conference room 306

3 Attendees

5 committee members:

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

Member, Koichi Endo — Assistant District Leader of Tochigi Branch of the 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 Ujiie

16 organizing members

4 Agenda

1. Confirmation of the previous (7th) meeting minutes
2. New test course plan
 - 2-1 Progress of environmental assessment
 - 2-2 Planned-area environmental conservation program document (draft)
 - 2-3 Descriptions in the environmental assessment document
 - 2-4 Progress of pre-construction monitoring
3. New R&D Center plan
 - 3-1 Report on the implementation of environmental conservation measures
4. Wide area nature conservation measures
5. Other

Agenda

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous (7th) meeting and follow-up on members' input

The organizer reported on the minutes of the 7th meeting. Members didn't make any particular comments.

2. New test course plan

The organizer explained the procedure for the assessment of the new test course's environmental impact and its progress, the planned-area environmental conservation program document (draft), descriptions in the environmental assessment document, and the status of pre-construction monitoring. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

2-1 Progress of environmental assessment

- Nothing in particular

2-2 Planned-area environmental conservation program document (draft)

- Regarding temporary breeding of *Hotoke Loach (Lefua echigonia)*, something like a light blocking sheet (or a shade) is believed to be needed for holding down the water temperature which tends to rise in the planned breeding place. It is also suggested that a testing period be provided before the *Hotoke Loach (Lefua echigonia)* is relocated to ensure that the relocation will work.

→ The organizer responded by saying that, regarding preparation of the temporary breeding place, light blocking sheets will be installed and water channels will be extended. Also, to spread the risks of

relocation, moving the fish to the inside of the marsh flora and fauna preservation area that is set within the test course will be considered, a testing period will be provided before relocation, and preparations will be made in the most appropriate manner.

- Regarding substitute nests for buzzard-eagles, should setting up artificial nests be considered, where necessary?

→ The organizer responded by saying that it will be stated that setting up artificial nests will be considered, where necessary.

- Some items in the goshawk and buzzard-eagle charts are difficult to understand. It was suggested that the charts be better organized to make them easy to understand.

→ The organizer responded by saying that items in the charts will be better organized by adding aids like legends while maintaining overall integrity to make them easier to understand.

- It is suggested that if plants are bought and then planted, information like where they were raised and cut be checked. This is because members of the same species sometimes have different genes and traits if they come from different places.

→ The organizer responded by saying that members will be consulted about matters like checking where the plants come from and that work will proceed in the direction outlined above.

2-3 Descriptions in the environmental assessment document

- Regarding the animals life patterns, it is suggested aspects directly related to conservation be mentioned and that aspects which are not significantly related be deleted.

→ The organizer acknowledged the above.

- It is suggested that the necessity of wide area control and direction of such control be explicitly described and that important areas be finally identified by looking into this document.

→ The organizer acknowledged the above.

- Regarding wide area conservation of buzzard-eagles, it was suggested that marsh and grasslands be mentioned in addition to woods as items to be controlled.

→ The organizer acknowledged the above.

- Since northern slopes (shaded areas) are good for hibernation of Tiger Beetles, the word “sunny” must be deleted.

→ The organizer acknowledged the above.

2-4 Progress of pre-construction monitoring

- Nothing in particular.

3 New R&D Center plan

The organizer explained the new R&D Center’s environmental conservation measures.

Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

3-1 Report on the implementation of environmental conservation measures

- Habitat of buzzard-eagles should be checked.

→The organizer responded by saying that the check will begin in late April.

- Thinnings make good homes for insects. It is suggested that a small amount of soil be put over the thinnings for fungi (mushrooms). Thinnings that are bundled upside down are good for bees and long-horned beetles.

→ The organizer responded by saying that some will be tested later through consultation.

4. Wide area nature conservation measures

The organizer reported on the current status of progress. There wasn't any particular input.

5 Other

Next meeting

- It was agreed to hold the next meeting in late July.