

**Minutes of the 10th Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting Focusing on Birds of  
Prey and Forests Concerning New Test Course Development by Honda Motor Co., Ltd.**

1 Date and Time

17:30 – 19:40      December 3, 2008 Wednesday

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

14 organizing member

3 observers

4 Agenda

1. Confirmation of the previous (9th) meeting minutes
2. New R&D Center plan
  - ◇ Results of mid-construction monitoring (reported)
3. New test course plan
  - 3-1 Implementation of environmental conservation measures after the start of construction (reported)
  - 3-2 Biotope plan (discussed)
4. Wide area nature conservation
  - 4-1 Implementation of conservation measures based on the results of the on-site investigation (reported and discussed)
  - 4-2 Start of certain measures for nature conservation (reported)
5. Other

## Agenda

### 1. Confirmation of the previous meeting minutes and the follow-up on members' input

The organizer reported on the 9th meeting minutes. Members didn't make any particular comments.

### 2. New R&D Center plan

The organizer explained about the mid-construction monitoring stated in the new R&D Center plan. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

#### ◇ Results of mid-construction monitoring

- It is suggested that some errors be corrected, such as the population of captured *Carassius buergeri* subsp. (*Kinbuna*) and *Carassius langsdorfii* (*Ginbuna*).

→ The organizer responded by saying that they will be corrected.

- Nothing is described in the New R&D Center plan about the buzzard-eagles. It could become difficult for them to inhabit the area after the environment has been altered. It is hoped that this matter will now be stated in the plan.

→ The organizer responded that they will analyze the impact of environmental changes could be caused by the new R&D Center and state the results of the analysis.

### 3. New test course plan

The organizer reported on the implementation of conservation measures and the biotope plan.

Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

#### 3-1 Implementation of environmental conservation measures after the start of construction (reported)

- It is hoped that the names of the conservation sites will be sorted out in an easy-to-understand manner.

→ The organizer responded by saying that descriptions and names will be sorted out.

#### 3-2 Biotope plan

- Will maintenance of the biotope after its completion be dealt with separately?

- The organizer responded by saying that the post-completion maintenance plan will be separately proposed in the future.
- Wood materials are better than leaf mold for the habitat of the Lucanidae (“Ku wagata” long-horn beetle). It is hoped that loose wood will be bundled several dozen at a time in a conical shape and provided for habitat.
  - The organizer responded by saying that a tall, leaning object will be taken into consideration later.
- In consideration of consistency with conservation policies, is it really necessary to set a marsh for Biotope 1?
  - The organizer responded by saying that size and location of the marshes will be reviewed again.
- It was suggested that the structure for snakes and lizards be constructed to keep some space so that they can crawl deep inside. It is believed that placing the house alongside green woods and facing east or south increases the possibility of these reptiles entering the house.
  - The organizer responded by saying that the matter will be taken into consideration.
- In consideration of the feeding stations for goshawks in Biotope 1, would it be acceptable to keep the existing grass area at the left end where *Miscanthus sinensis* (Susuki or Japanese silver grass) currently grows instead of restoring woods there?
  - The organizer responded by saying that the matter will be taken into consideration and that the site will be checked for this matter.
- It is hoped that a plan for dealing with the means of conservation of *Luciola cruciata* (Genjibotaru or Japanese firefly) will be proposed later.
  - The organizer responded by saying that means of conservation for the *Luciola cruciata* will be presented later.

#### 4. Wide area nature conservation

The organizer reported on the results of the survey and the direction of implementation of conservation measures. Members presented comments which are summarized as follows:

##### 4-1 Implementation of conservation measures based on the results of an on-site investigation

- In Kamikodo Area A-1, what kind of situation is envisioned by the statement, “keeping the area light so that *Alnus japonicas* regrow naturally”?
  - The organizer responded by saying that the idea is that the environment can be made brighter by removing fallen trees and grass, instead of planting, so that woods will regrow, even though they may need some time to grow.
- If all *Alnus japonica* are uprooted, will the environment be altered due to subsidence?
  - The organizer responded by saying that what will be basically done regarding the *Alnus japonica* woods is to remove the trees that have been cut down and that there will only be partial uprooting.
- It is suggested that programs carried out Green Trust Utsunomiya and the facilities such as Eco Park Sakado be observed, which involve local residents in the maintenance of various trees and restoring abandoned rice paddies as wetlands.
  - The organizer responded by saying that preparations will be made.

## 5. Other

### Next meeting schedule

- To be held on February 24.