

Minutes of the 12th 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

17:00 – 19:30 August 25, 2009 Tuesday

2 Venue

New Mikura Conference Room 207

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

17 organizing member

4 other attendees

4 Agenda

1. Confirmation of the previous meeting minutes and follow-up on members' input
 - 1-1. Outline of the agenda of the 11th Nature Conservation Review Committee Meeting (web version) (confirmed)
 - 1-2. Table of input given at the 11th meeting and their follow-up (confirmed)
2. New R&D Center plan
 - 2-1. Second mid-construction monitoring survey and its interim report (reported)
3. New test course plan
 - 3-1. First mid-construction monitoring survey and its interim report (reported)
4. Environment management plan for New R&D Center and the new test course
 - 4-1. New R&D Center (discussed)
 - 4-2. New test course (discussed)
5. Wide area nature conservation

5-1. Progress of implementing nature conservation activities (reported, discussed)

5-2. Wide area birds of prey monitoring survey and its interim report (reported)

6. Other

5 Minutes (summary)

Agenda

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

The organizer reported on the 11th meeting minutes. Members didn't make any particular comments.

2. New R&D Center plan

The organizer explained the interim report on the second mid-construction monitoring survey of New R&D Center. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

- No buzzard-eagles have been seen near the R&D center for two straight years, which tells us that the center's environment in general is getting inhospitable to the bird. Observing its surrounding conditions through monitoring is the only thing we can do. If habitat for the bird hasn't been reshaped there, we have to think out the appropriate action.

→ The organizer would like to deal with this item as well as to see if any buzzard-eagles have been seen in the wide area.

- Why was one of the two *Alisma rariflorum* specimens identified as not having been transplanted from somewhere else? Also, how was such identification made outside of the summer?

→The organizer said that the presence of the plant concerned was confirmed in a different area from the area where the plants were transported from. It was therefore judged to have been transported from somewhere else. When this sort of identification is made, observations are made about how the leaves and branches are growing.

3. New test course plan

The organizer explained the interim report on the first mid-construction monitoring survey of the new test course. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

- A rare species of dragonfly that happened to be found there for the first time and its preservation needs to be thought out.
- Its habitat has to be formed even if the current biotope plan must be revised. For the revision, data on the preservation of this species of dragonfly, which are preserved in Motegi, may be used as input.
 - If an alternative environment can be formed there, the organizer would like to consider reviewing the biotope plan in order to preserve such rare species in the biotope or the marsh.
- The floating-leaved plant whose presence was confirmed for the first time should be moved if possible. It is believed that this type of waterside transplant is easy.
 - The organizer would like to consider this matter by thoroughly checking where to do this transplant.
- The measure for dealing with the goshawk is a very rare case: alternative woods were rearranged so that they could be used as an artificial nest for breeding the bird and breeding now has taken place there. The people attending this meeting should not think a measure like this is easy to implement, but should understand that what was done this time is a very rare case.
- There haven't been many cases where the area has been surveyed in a proper manner, including before and after the installation. Therefore, its assessment could be a great deal of waste unless its results are summarized into something objective and presentable to outside parties. These thoughts are what those concerned need to fully understand. What we hope is that a high level of monitoring is conducted with strong motivation of everyone involved so that results may produce something positive for the following steps.
 - The organizer will take the above input seriously and take it into consideration.
- Our understanding is that the place where edible plants and trees are supposed to be moved will become Biotope 1. Where exactly will this place be?
 - The organizer responded that they will be transplanted to Biotope 1 which induces grassland and woods. The willows will be transplanted to Biotope 2 which induces waterside.

4. Environment management plan for New R&D Center and the new test course

The organizer reported and explained the environment management plan for the New R&D Center and the new test course. Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

- The content of overall policy is good and it is very important to discuss details at the following meeting. It is recommended that discussion be conducted in a way that some type of base plan is shown to members beforehand, that this plan is revised based on input from the members, and that the revised plan is presented at the next meeting.

→ The organizer will make due adjustments so that such interactive communication is feasible.

- How is the management plan scheduled? Will the plans for New R&D Center and the new test course proceed simultaneously?

→ The organizer said that the both plans will proceed simultaneously in principle and that they will be reviewed this autumn or later. The organizer would also like to present the revised versions with details at the next committee meeting.

- In the Haga Town woods, fallen leaves are raked and gathered and the bottom grass is cut. This is a type of idea that we could refer to.

- The mixed forest is heavily stratified but its diversity will be lost unless it is divided into thick forest areas and the stratified spots.

- It may be necessary to set things like target environment in bit more detail.

→ The organizer would like to deal with the above in a flexible manner while seeing what is going on.

5. Wide area nature conservation

The organizer reported on and described the progress on implementation of wide area nature conservation measures and the plan for monitoring and surveying birds of prey over the wide area.

Members exchanged views which are summarized as follows:

5-1. Progress of implementing nature conservation activities (reported, discussed)

- Regarding the owl in the wide area of nature conservation area (Area B), our hope is that concrete results of observation like videotaped movements will be mentioned.

→ The organizer will report later on.

- Will future actions regarding the wide area nature conservation plan be executed after being reviewed again at the next meeting?

→ The organizer will prepare and present an implementation plan that is effective from March onward.

5-2. Wide area birds of prey monitoring survey and its interim report (reported)

- No buzzard-eagles have been seen in Wide Area B, either this year or last year. But since the upstream, midstream, and downstream areas of the Egawa river are spaced relatively equally apart, it is highly likely that the bird will return if feeding sites meet the appropriate requirements. Our hope is that feeding sites are created and marsh environments are kept under control.

6. Other

Schedule for the next review meeting

- The date for the next meeting will be determined later.