



No Military Helipads in Yanbaru Forest



WWF Japan and Residence's group of No Helipad

Biodiversity of Yanbaru Forest

There is Jungle Warfare Training Center of United States Marine Corps (7,500 ha) in the area called Yanbaru – Northeast mountain side of Higashi and Kunigami village, Okinawa. Subtropical natural forest and mountain stream remain, and the area provides habitats for over 4,000 species of wildlife. 11 animals and 12 plants are peculiar to the Yanbaru area. A large number of Threatened Species are listed in the Red List, 188 species in Okinawan Red List, and 177 in the Red List of Environment Ministry. Jungle Warfare Training Center and the Yanbaru Forest around the center have quite important natural environment and biodiversity including numerous endemic, endemic subspecific, and threatened species.



Harmful effect of U.S. military helipads

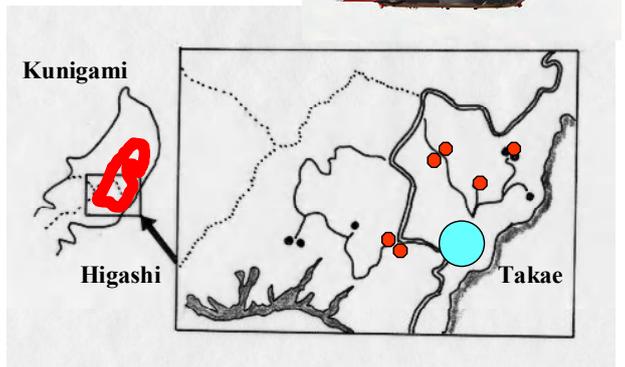
Northern half of the Jungle Warfare Training Center is scheduled for retiring to Japan. However, the construction of 6 helipads (75m in diameter) and roads are required in return. If the helipads are constructed and military exercises carry out, it is considered to have serious adverse effect on forest and the wildlife living in the area.



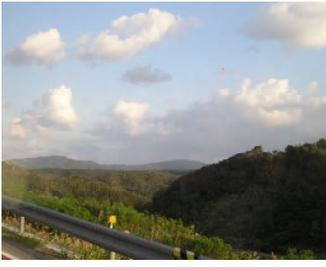
Call for the cancellation of helipads

Natural environment and the wildlife living in the Jungle Warfare Training Center are of considerable value as World natural heritage. IUCN urged both Japanese and American governments to consider other alternatives, including Zero Option (option of no constriction), also to set up a protected area and management action plan for Okinawa Woodpecker and Okinawa Rail in the years of 2000 and 2004. The governments should also call off the helipads constriction plan to the security and tranquil life of the people who lives in Takae, Higashi village, situated next to the helipads.

VTOL Osprey



Location of the planning six helipads ●

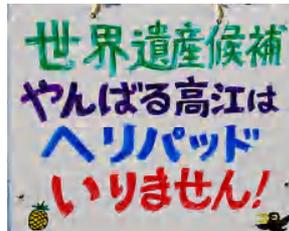


Voice from Takae

Takae has as many as 157 inhabitants, of them 14 people are elementary and junior high schoolers and 11 people are preschooler. They live freely and vivaciously in the environment of great biodiversity. Takae is seemingly moderate, yet there is a U.S. military base just like everywhere in Okinawa. In our daily life, helicopters crisscross overhead of our settlement, right next to the schoolhouse in the middle of class, morning, noon, and night with a loud noise. New helipads construction began in 2007, if the helipads are constructed; the concentration of helipads within Takae increase and that takes alarm of future roar of helicopter and its fall accident. We, the people of Takae are adamantly opposed to the construction of the helipads.

Sit-in protest continues in Takae

To halt the construction of the helipads, people of Takae and the supporters hold a sit-in protest. People stage a sit-in protest in front of the 4 gates of the U.S. military base, since the gates are respectively away from each other by 2 or 3 kilometer; the sit-in requires number of people. We request the cooperation of participating of as many people as possible. Even one day or a half-day participation, if there are a number of people we can bring a stop to construction of the helipads.



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