

自然・環境

Nature and the environment

豊穡の海 破壊危機

The ocean, and the abundance of life it supports, in danger of destruction

ラッパ状に切れ込んで独特の地形を形成し、川が山の栄養を運び、生態系豊かな環境がつくられた名護市の大浦湾一帯。生物多様性条約に基づく環境省の重要海域に選定され、県も自然環境保全指針で厳正な保護が求められる最高レベル「ランク1」に位置付ける。

国の天然記念物や国際自然保護連合（IUCN）の絶滅危惧種に指定されるジュゴンが回遊し、ウミガメも生息する。辺野古崎の無人島には夏

ごろ絶滅危惧種のアジサシ類が飛来。希少なアオサング群集は多くの生物のすみかとなり、環境省が準絶滅危惧種に指定する海草7種も海面に広がる。新種や未記載種の生物の発見も後を絶たない。

新基地建設が予定されるが、国内の環境団体や学術団体が環境保全を求め、国際自然保護連合が3度にわたって環境保全を求める勧告を出すなど、大浦湾一帯を守る動きが広がっている。

The terrain of Oura Bay in Nago is characterized by a unique bell-shaped formation. Rivers carry nutrients from the mountains to the bay, creating an ecosystem-rich environment. Oura Bay has been designated an important sea area by the Ministry of the Environment based on the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Okinawa prefectural government has also designated it "rank 1" in their official environmental conservation policy, requiring strict conservation.

The dugong, a sea mammal which has been designated a national monument of Japan and is considered an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, comes to Oura Bay to feed, and sea turtles also inhabit the area. In the summer, the skimmer, an endangered sea bird, comes to land on uninhabited islands off the coast of Cape Henoko. The rare blue coral in the bay serves as a habitat for many creatures. Seven species of seaweed considered "near threatened" by the Ministry of the Environment are also found there. Discoveries of new and unrecorded species continue to occur regularly.

The movement to protect Oura Bay from the damage that would be caused by construction of a new base is growing. Environmental and academic organizations within Japan have called for conservation of the bay's natural environment, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature has submitted recommendations calling for its conservation three times.

Colony of rare blue coral stretching up toward the water's surface (taken April 9, 2013, in Oura Bay, Nago, sea depth of roughly 15 meters)

海面に向かって背を伸ばす希少なアオサング群集＝2013年4月9日、名護市の大浦湾（水深約15メートル）



名護市辺野古の東方約5キロの沖合を泳ぐジュゴンとみられる海獣＝2014年8月17日午後、共同通信社ヘリから
A sea creature that appears to be a dugong seen swimming five kilometers east off the coast of Henoko, Nago (taken August 17, 2014, by a Kyodo News helicopter)



トンブロックで砕き割られたハマサンゴ＝2月14日、名護市の大浦湾（水深約5メートル）
Coral crushed by massive concrete blocks (taken February 14, 2015, Oura Bay, Nago, sea depth of roughly 5 meters)

新基地工事 生態系へ影響大

名護市辺野古での新基地建設に向けた海上作業は大浦湾海域の環境に負荷を与え、今後の作業による生態系への影響も危惧される。

2014年10月の台風の影響で、海底ボーリング（掘削）

調査海域を囲む浮具（フロート）を固定する最大160キログラムの鉄板などのアンカー248個のうち120個を紛失した。その際、大型ハマサンゴ群体が損傷し、海草藻場で最大265メートルに及ぶ36本のアンカー移動の

痕跡が見つかった。

ことし1月下旬からは臨時制限区域を示すフロートや浮標灯（ブイ）を固定するコンクリート製のトンブロック（10～45トン）が投入され、サンゴ94群体を破壊した。

また工事作業がジュゴンやウミガメへ与える影響やサンゴ移植の実効性、埋め立て用土砂に特定外来生物のアルゼンチンアリが混入する恐れが懸念されている。

New base construction will have a massive impact on ecosystems

The work being carried out in preparation for the new base construction in Henoko, Nago is impacting the natural environment in Oura Bay, and there are concerns that future work will further damage the bay's ecosystems.

Floats surrounding the area in which the seabed drilling survey is being carried out were secured

to the ocean floor by anchors made of iron and other materials weighing as much as 160 kilograms. Of 248 such anchors, 120 were lost during typhoons in October 2014, causing damage to large colonies of Porites tenuis coral. Tracks as long as 265 meters have been found running through seaweed beds where 36 anchors were dragged by the

force of the typhoons.

Starting at the end of January of this year, concrete blocks ranging from 10 to 45 tons were sunk into the bay to anchor float and buoys delineating a temporary restricted zone around the construction area in Oura Bay. These concrete blocks have been found to have destroyed 94 coral colonies.

Other environmental concerns include the potential impact of construction on dugongs and sea turtles, doubts as to the effectiveness of planned coral transplantation, and the potential introduction of the Argentine ant, an invasive alien species, through soil used in the land reclamation.

返還跡地から汚染物質

米軍基地の返還跡地で有害物質による汚染が発覚することがある。米軍に返還跡地の原状回復や補償を義務付けていない日米地位協定の問題が指摘されている。

基地返還跡地の沖縄市サッカー場では2013年以降、ダイオキシン類を含むドラム缶108本が発掘された。ドラム缶のたまり水（未ろ過水）から廃棄物処理法に基づく排出基準の2100倍のダイオキシンが検出。ドラム缶の付着物からは発がん

性が指摘されるジクロロメタンが環境省による土壤環境基準の45万5千倍で検出されるなど、基準値を上回る有害物質が確認されている。

ことし返還された米軍キャンプ瑞慶覧・西普天間住宅地区跡地の140棟の建物などからアスベスト（石綿）が検出され、基地周辺のマンガースやハブから高濃度のポリ塩化ビフェニール（PCB）が蓄積していた研究例もあり、新たな汚染も懸念される。

作業員らによって掘り出されるドラム缶＝2014年1月29日、沖縄市サッカー場
Construction workers dug up barrels at the Okinawa City soccer field, which was previously a U.S. military facility, on January 29, 2014



Pollutants found on base land after it is returned to Okinawa

When land used by the U.S. military has been returned to locals, contamination from toxic chemicals has been found.

Some environmental experts point out that the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) prevents any resolution of this problem because it does not require the U.S. government to restore the former military lands to their original state and compensate the landowners for environmental damage.

At the Okinawa City soccer field, a former U.S. military base, construction workers have unearthed 108 barrels containing dioxins and other harmful materials since 2013. Dioxin, which was equivalent to 2,100 times the emission standard value

based on the Waste Management Law, was detected in the water in the barrels.

It was confirmed that dichloromethane, a known carcinogen, was found in soil deposits from the barrels at 455,000 times the safe environmental levels designated by the Ministry of the Environment.

Asbestos was detected from 140 buildings in Camp Foster and the West Futenma Housing Area, which were returned by the U.S. military this year.

According to a recent report by researchers, habu, a poisonous snake species, and mongooses living near a U.S. base, have high concentrations of PCB. Residents are concerned that other toxic substances might be found.