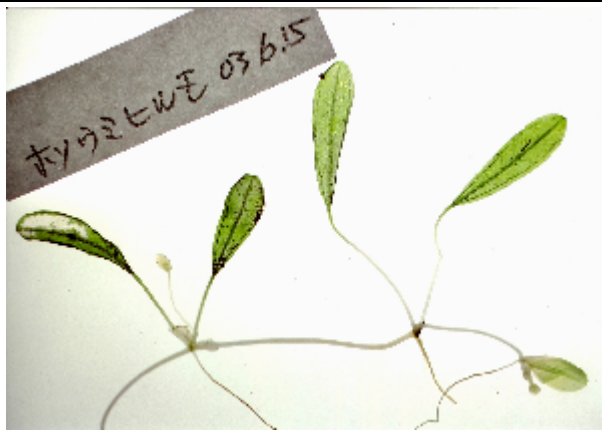


This Landfill Project has been proceeded by the central and Okinawa Prefectural governments allegedly upon a request from Okinawa City. When the construction work is completed, the Okinawa Prefectural government is to purchase the land from the central government. Then Okinawa City will purchase the half of it, covering approximately 90ha, and build marine resort facilities (e.g., hotels, marina, artificial beaches). The purpose of this project is twofold.: one is to utilize this area as a disposal area for abandoning unnecessary dredged soil coming from the nearby construction site (the main purpose of the central government), and another one is to build marine resort facilities on this landfill area (the main purpose of the Prefectural government and Okinawa City).

Problems and issues:

1. The two purposes of the plan are not critically urgent and without rationality.
2. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not performed thoroughly.
3. Many new and ecologically valuable species have been found after the EIA surveys and after the Landfill work was started. There are no plan to conserve these species, and these important species are/will be buried alive. Nine new species, 121 of endangered fauna species (108 Mollusks, 7 Crustacea, and 6 fish) and many endangered flora species have been recorded. As many as 12 seagrass species have been found inhabiting this area, which makes this area of the highest seagrass biodiversity in Japan.
4. This is a typical example of unnecessary construction works in Japan. A world-class and biodiversity-rich wetland, which meets criteria for the listing under the Ramsar Convention, is now being lost.
5. The plan has not been fully supported by local citizens (A majority of people opposed this plan according to various polls).
6. There have been requests to stop the plan and concerns have been expressed nationally and internationally: e.g., Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, the Australian Minister of Environment, and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

New species, ecologically important and endangered species found after the construction started.



seagrass *Halophila okinawense* J. Kuo, 2006



Litigiella pacifica Lützen & Kosuge, 2006 (Bivalvia. Symbiosis with sipunculan worm. Type locality is Awase.)



a new crab species *Macrophthalmus microfylacas* NAGAI, WATANABE & NARUSE, 2006 (Type locality is Awase.)



First Phase of the Landfill. The construction work of the revetment (seawall, bank protection) has completed.

