

Help Us Save The Dugongs



The Okinawa dugong, a close relative of manatee and the northernmost population of its species, is now on the verge of extinction. The dugong, a gentle marine mammal once commonly seen around Okinawa, has long been a symbol of the sea rich in life. The coast off Henoko, in Nago, still beautiful with wildlife such as corals and turtles, holds a rich sea-grass colony where the dugongs feed. However, there are plans to landfill this area to construct a new US Marine base.

Okinawa Prefecture, 0.6% of Japan in area, is burdened with 74% of the US bases in the country. The whole of Okinawa is strongly against building another US base in the prefecture, but the people ' s voice has been ignored by both the US and the Japanese governments. An exorbitant amount of money is being spent to divide and weaken the people ' s consensus.

On March 22, 2013, Prime Minister Abe made a formal application to the Governor Nakaima of Okinawa to permit the landfill. If it is carried out, the Henoko seagrass beds, together with the Okinawa dugong, will be lost forever.



We hope all the people of the world will join us in an effort to continue to co-exist with dugongs.

Association to Protect
the Northernmost Dugong

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