

September 7, 2004

Dear President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi,

The island of Okinawa has been called the "Galapagos of the East" because of the incredible variety of marine and terrestrial life it supports.

Almost 400 types of coral form Okinawa's reefs, which support more than 1,000 species of fish, marine mammals and sea turtles.

As two prominent world leaders, you have the power to protect these unique and priceless creatures. Unfortunately, a joint project backed by the United States and Japanese governments will destroy one of the last healthy reefs in Okinawa, pushing many magnificent species closer to extinction.

Current plans call for construction of a new military base at sea, atop a coral reef near Henoko in Okinawa. But the reef that this project would destroy supports numerous highly endangered species - animals protected by American, Japanese and international law. These species include:

- The critically endangered and culturally treasured dugong, which relies on this habitat for its very survival in Okinawa. Japan's Mammalogical Society placed the dugong on its "Red List of Mammals" in 1997, estimating the population in Okinawa to be critically endangered. The U.S. Government's Marine Mammal Commission also fears the project would pose a serious threat to the animals' survival. The World Conservation Union's dugong specialists have expressed similar concerns and have placed the dugong on their Red List of threatened species.
- Three types of endangered sea turtle - the hawksbill, loggerhead, and green - also depend on this ecosystem. All of these turtles, as well as the dugong, are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Because of global warming, landfill and pollution, Okinawa's coral reefs, along with coral reefs around the world are already threatened. More than half of Okinawa's coral reefs have disappeared over the past decade. This makes preserving the healthy reefs that continue to exist all the more important. By canceling the plan to construct the airbase near Henoko, you can help protect a globally important ocean ecosystem and some of the best remaining habitat for Okinawa dugong. We urge you to cancel this destructive project.

Sincerely,

Peter Galvin, Conservation Director, Center for Biological Diversity (USA)  
Martin Wagner, International Program Director, Earthjustice (USA)  
Joel Reynolds, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Carl Zichella, Regional Staff Director CA/NV/HI Field Office, Sierra Club  
Priscilla Feral, President, Friends of Animals (USA)  
Andrew J. Orahoske, Land Air Water, University of Oregon's environmental law society  
Scott Hoffman Black, Executive Director, The Xerces Society  
Cynthia Elkins, Program Director, Environmental Protection Information Center

David Gordon, Acting Executive Director, Pacific Environment (USA)  
 Dr. Thomas J. Goreau, President, Global Coral Reef Alliance  
 William W. Rossiter, President Cetacean Society International  
 Dr. Jean-Luc Solandt, Biodiversity Policy Officer, Marine Conservation Society  
 Greg L. Carter, President, Oceanic Resource Foundation  
 Robert Rabin/Nilda Medina, Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques'  
 Tara Thornton, Executive Director, Military Toxics Project  
 Pamela K. Miller, Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)  
 Alfredo Quarto, Exec. Dir., Mangrove Action Project  
 Ann Z. Olib, Executive Director, People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup Philippines  
 Drew Weiner, Director, Reef Protection International  
 Frederic Evenson, Ecological Rights Foundation  
 Alison Rolfe, San Diego Bay Keeper  
 Sigrid Lüber, ASMS, OceanCare  
 Puanani Rogers, Ho`okipa Network - Kauai  
 Kyle Kajihiro, American Friends Service Committee - Hawai'i  
 Gershon Cohen Ph.D., Project Director, Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters  
 Jim Albertini, President, Malu `Aina Center For Non-violent Education & Action  
 Laura Olah, Executive Director, Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger  
 Cheryl A. Magill, Stop LFAS Worldwide Network  
 Dan Clark, Cry of the Water  
 Henk van der Keur, Laka Foundation (Netherlands)  
 'Ohana Koa, Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific, Hawai'i Chapter  
 Carroll Muffett, Director of International Programs, Defenders of Wildlife  
 Tim Dillingham, Executive Director, American Littoral Society  
 Karen Sack, Oceans Policy Advisor, Greenpeace International  
 Lisa Finaldi, Greenpeace USA  
 Sarah Matsumoto, Western Representative, Endangered Species Coalition

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 1000 Friends of Maryland  
 Abalone Alliance Safe Energy Clearinghouse  
 Action For Animals  
 Action for Conservation  
 Alabama Environmental Council  
 Alaska Wildlife Alliances  
 Alley Cat Allies  
 Alliance for Animals  
 American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta  
 American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums  
 American Bat Conservation Society  
 American Cetacean Society  
 American Eagle Foundation  
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 American Indian Center of Central Florida Inc.  
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 American Society of Mammalogists  
 American Wildlands  
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 Andropogon Associates Ltd.  
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 Animal Defense League of New York City  
 Animal Protection Institute  
 Animal Protection of New Mexico  
 Animal Rights Foundation of Florida  
 Appalachia Science in the Public Interest  
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 Artesian Source Inc.  
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 Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights  
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 Audubon Council of Texas  
 Audubon Society of Central Maryland  
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 Audubon Society of Portland  
 Audubon Society of Rhode Island  
 Augusta Bird Club  
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Bay Area Nuclear Waste Coalition  
 Berks Conservation League  
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 Border Ecology Project  
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 California Native Plant Society  
 California Trout  
 California Wilderness Coalition  
 Caribbean Conservation Corportaiion/Sea Turtle  
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 Cedar Lane Universailist Church  
 Center for Biological Diversity  
 Center for Development of International Law  
 Center for Environmental Citizenship  
 Center for Plant Conservation  
 Center for Wildlife Information  
 Cetacean Society International  
 Chattooga River Watershed Coalition  
 Chewonki Foundation  
 Chicago Zoological Society  
 Christian Environmental Association  
 Citizens Concerned About I-73  
 Citizens League for Environmental Action &  
 Recovery  
 Citizens United for Animals Inc.  
 Clearinghouse for Environmental Advocacy and  
 Research  
 Clearwater Biodiversity Project  
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 Species  
 Coalition for Jobs and the Environment  
 Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life  
 Coast Range Association  
 Coastal Plains Institute  
 Committee Against Heliport Construction - Save Life  
 Society  
 Committee of Wilderness Supporters  
 Commonwealth Zoological Corporation  
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 Connecticut Conservation Association  
 Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
 Conservation Alliance of the Great Plains  
 Conservation Fisheries Inc.  
 Conservation Law Foundation  
 Conservation Science Institute  
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 Darby Creek Valley Association  
 Defenders of Wild Cumberland  
 Defenders of Wildlife  
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 Desert Fishes Council  
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 Doris Day Animal League  
 Dugong Network Okinawa  
 Earth Action Network  
 Earth Island Institute  
 Earthjustice  
 Earth Warriors Inc.  
 EarthLaw  
 EarthWorks Projects  
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 Eckerd College Earth Society  
 Ecology Center of Ann Arbor  
 Ecology Mission Group of Central Baptist Church of  
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 Emory Humane Society of the United States  
 Endangered Habitats League  
 Endangered Species Coalition of Maryland  
 Endangered Species Program  
 WI Dept. of Agriculture  
 Trade & Consumer Protection  
 Endangered Species Zoological Society  
 Environmental Action Committee  
 Environmental Council of Rhode Island  
 Environmental Defense Center  
 Environmental Investigation Agency  
 Environmental Law Society of Michigan  
 Environmental Law and Conservation Society  
 Environmental Protection Information Center Inc.  
 Environmental Resource Center  
 Environmental Solutions Project  
 Environmental Voters Education Fund  
 Episcopal Diocese of Maryland-Committe on the  
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 Federated Conservationists of Westchester County  
 Florida Audubon Society  
 Focus on Nature  
 Forest Conservation Council  
 Forest Guardians  
 Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics  
 Free the Planet!  
 Friends of Animals  
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 Friends of Georgia  
 Friends of Mt. Aventine  
 Friends of Saucony Marsh  
 Friends of St. Rosa Marsh  
 Friends of the Bay  
 Friends of the Earth  
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 Friends of the Rivers of Virginia  
 Friends of the San Juans  
 Friends of the Sea Otter  
 Friends of the West

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 Garden Club of America  
 Gasparilla Island Conservation  
 Gaviota Coast Conservancy  
 General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church  
 Georgia Native Plant Society  
 Government Accountability Project  
 Grand Canyon Trust  
 GrassRoots Environmental Effectiveness Network  
 Gray Panthers  
 Great Plains Restoration Council  
 Great South Bay Audubon Society  
 Greater Watchug Nature Club  
 Greenbelt Alliance  
 Greenpeace  
 Gulf Specimen Marine Lab  
 Harris Center for Conservation Education  
 Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
 Heal the Bay  
 Healthy Crones Healthy Earth  
 Heartwood  
 Hempen Goods  
 The Herpetologists' League  
 Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County  
 Hoosier Environmental Council  
 Human League of Lancaster County  
 Humane Education Network  
 Humane Society of the United States  
 Humanitarians for Environmental & Animal Laws  
 Political Action Committee  
 Idaho Conservation League  
 Illinois Student Environmental Network  
 In Defense of Animals  
 In Defense of Endangered Species  
 INPIRG  
 International Primate Protection League  
 Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance  
 Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research  
 Japan Environmental Law Federation  
 The John G. Shedd Aquarium  
 Jumping Frog Research Institute  
 Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
 Kentucky Citizens Accountability Project  
 Kentucky Heartwood  
 Kettle Range Conservation Group  
 Key Deer Protection Alliance  
 Klamath Forest Alliance  
 Knoah's Ark  
 Kutztown University Environmental Science Forum  
 Lake Champlain Committee Inc.  
 Lake Michigan Federation  
 Lancaster Greens  
 The Lands Council  
 Land Trust Alliance  
 Last Chance Audubon Society  
 Last Stand  
 League of Women Voters  
 LightHawk  
 Living Education Center for Ecology and the Arts  
 Local Environmental Awareness Development Group (LEAD)  
 Lone Tree Council  
 Long Island Pine Barrens  
 Madison Audubon Society  
 Maine Audubon Society  
 Mainline Unitarian Church  
 Marine Protection Alliance  
 Maryland Alliance for Greenway Improvement & Conservation  
 Maryland Interfaith Coalition for the Environment  
 Maryland United for Peace and Justice Inc.  
 Maryland Wildlands Committee  
 MARYPIRG  
 Massachusetts Audubon Society  
 Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
 Mexican Wolf Coalition of Texas  
 Michigan Environmental Council  
 Michigan Humane Society  
 Minnesota Ecosystems Recovery Project  
 Minnesota Native Plant Society  
 Minnesota River Valley Audubon Society  
 Missouri Botanical Garden  
 Missouri Environmental Fund  
 Mohawk Valley Audubon Society  
 Monitor International  
 Montana Audubon Council  
 Montana Wilderness Association  
 Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania  
 Mount Graham Coalition  
 National Association of People with AIDS  
 National Audubon Society  
 National Foundation to Protect America's Eagles  
 National Parks and Conservation Association  
 National Recreation and Parks Association  
 Native Plant Society of Oregon  
 Native Seeds/SEARCH  
 Natural Resources Defense Council  
 New England Aquarium  
 New England Environmental Voters  
 New England Wild Flower Society  
 New Jersey Audubon Society  
 New Jersey Environmental Lobby  
 New York Rivers United  
 New York State Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
 New York Turtle and Tortoise Society  
 Night Heron Bed and Breakfast  
 North Central Washington Audubon Society  
 North Florida Trout Unlimited  
 Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Northern Flint Hills Audubon Society  
 Northcoast Environmental Center  
 Northwest Ecosystem Alliance  
 Northwest Illinois Audubon Society  
 Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Ocean State Action  
 Ohio Wilderness League  
 Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation  
 Orange County People for Animals  
 Orca Quest  
 Oregon Natural Deserts Association  
 Oregon Natural Resources Council  
 The Ornithological Council  
 The Otter Project  
 P.E.A.C.E.  
 Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations  
 Pacific Rivers Council  
 Pautuxent Bird Club  
 Peace and Justice Center  
 The Pegasus Foundation  
 Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation  
 Pennsylvania Audubon Society  
 Pennsylvania Green Party  
 Pennsylvania Trout  
 Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation  
 Pequea Township Environmental Advisory Council  
 Performing Animals Welfare Society  
 Philadelphia Botanical Club  
 Physicians for Social Responsibility  
 Pilchuck Audubon Society  
 Pine Creek Valley Watershed Association  
 Potomac Valley Audubon Society  
 Predator Project  
 Prince George's Baywatchers  
 Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals  
 Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
 Rainforest Action Network  
 Raptor Research Foundation  
 Reading Public Museum  
 Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
 REP America  
 RESTORE: The North Woods  
 Rockaway Township Environmental Commission  
 Rockbridge Area Conservation Council  
 Rockcastle River Rebirth  
 Rumpf Law Offices  
 Sacred Earth Network  
 Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council  
 Santa Fe Presbyterian Church  
 Save America's Forests  
 Save Biosphere  
 Save Endangered Wilderness  
 Save Our Streams  
 Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition  
 Save the Dugong Foundation  
 Save the Manatee Club  
 Save the Species Worldwide Organization  
 Save Wetlands and Bays  
 Save-A-Turtle  
 Sea Turtle Preservation Society  
 Seattle Audubon Society  
 Selkirk Conservation Alliance  
 Sierra Club Grizzly Bear Ecosystem Project  
 Sinapu  
 Siskiyou Regional Education Project  
 Society for Animal Protective Legislation  
 Society for Conservation Biology  
 South Carolina Forest Watch  
 South Shore Audubon Society  
 Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project  
 Southern Environmental Center  
 Southern Maryland Audubon Society  
 Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
 Southwest Center for Biological Diversity  
 Southwest Environmental Center  
 Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment  
 Students for the Environment-University of Delaware  
 Superior Wilderness Action Network  
 The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values  
 Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning  
 T & E Inc.  
 The Tides Center/Bioregional Initiative  
 Timber Wolf Alliance  
 Tortoise Group  
 Town and Country Garden Club  
 Trevor Zoo  
 Trout Unlimited  
 Trout Unlimited Mountaineer Chapter #153  
 Tucson Audubon Society  
 Turner Endangered Species Fund  
 Turtle Island Restoration Network  
 Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
 Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle Project  
 Unitarians for Ethical Treatment of Animals  
 United Church of Christ Network for Environmental  
 and Economic Responsibility  
 University of Wisconsin Greens  
 U.S. PIRG  
 Vermont Audubon Council  
 Virginia Forest Watch  
 Virginia Herpetological Society  
 Virginians for Wilderness  
 Voices for Animals  
 Washington Trout  
 Water Watch  
 Waukesha County Environmental Action League  
 Wesley Foundation of WI  
 West Michigan Environmental Action Council  
 Western Endangered Species Alliance  
 Western North Carolina Alliance  
 Western Wildlife Conservancy  
 Wetlands Preserve

Whale Conservation Institute  
Wild Again Inc.  
Wild Again Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Wild Earth  
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The Wilderness Society  
The Wildlands Project  
Wildlife Advocacy Project  
Wildlife Alive/Earth Island Institute  
Wildlife Center of Virginia  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Wildlife Damage Review  
Wildlife Information Center  
Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of MA  
Wildlife Rescue of the Florida Keys  
The Wildlife Society  
Wisconsin Audubon Council  
Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers  
Wolf Education and Research Center  
Woodworkers Alliance for Rainforest Protection  
World Foundation for Natural Science  
World Institute for a Sustainable Humanity  
World Society for the Protection of Animals  
World Stewardship Institute  
Wyncote Audubon Society  
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