

Reintroducing Toki to their Natural Habitat



▲ (Creating feeding rounds)
▼ Volunteers create feeding grounds in the east part of the Kosado area, which used to be a habitat for Toki.



▲ (Meeting regarding how humans and Toki can coexist)
People discuss where to create a biotope for the Toki and environmentally sustainable rice paddies in village meetings.



▲ (3rd release of ibises into the wild)
The acclimation cage at the Reintroduction Center was opened and 13 ibises were released into the wild.
(Photo presented by Ministry of the Environment)

The Ministry of the Environment set a goal regarding Toki's reintroduction to the wild as part of their the Environment Restoration Vision

Goal: Settle 60 ibises in the east part of Kosado by 2015

To achieve this goal, the Ministry of the Environment and various organizations are working together to reintroduce Toki to the wild in accordance with the following key points.

1. Carry out breeding programs to ensure the number of individual birds, and acclimatize them to life in the wild so they can return to their natural habitat.

The Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Center is aggressively protecting and breeding Toki to increase their number.

Their training is carried out at a facility (the Reintroduction Center) constructed in 2006.

2. Create both a natural and social environment where at least 60 Toki can live to ensure a habitat for the Toki.

Projects to improve the natural environment include restoring terraced rice paddies in farmlands, keeping the grasslands in good condition, making use of fallow fields to create biotopes, and developing rice paddies, irrigation, and drainage.

Projects to improve the social environment are carried out by NPOs, volunteer groups, and local people, and include efforts to create a recycle-oriented local society where human and Toki can co-exist.

To coordinate these activities, organizational support is vital.

In 2007 the Ministry of the Environment expanded the wildlife sanctuary in east Kosado to 17 times its previous area so that Toki would be able to safely live in the wild in Kosado.