

Conservation and Breeding Efforts

The Ministry of the Environment has entrusted Niigata with carrying out conservation and breeding efforts in order to preserve the Toki, which are designated as a national endangered species.

We receive advice and support regarding the breeding and health management of Toki from zoos in Tokyo.

Cooperation with China, where Toki still live in the wild, is indispensable for conservation and breeding efforts.

Conservation and Breeding Projects in Recent Years

(Cooperation between Japan and China)

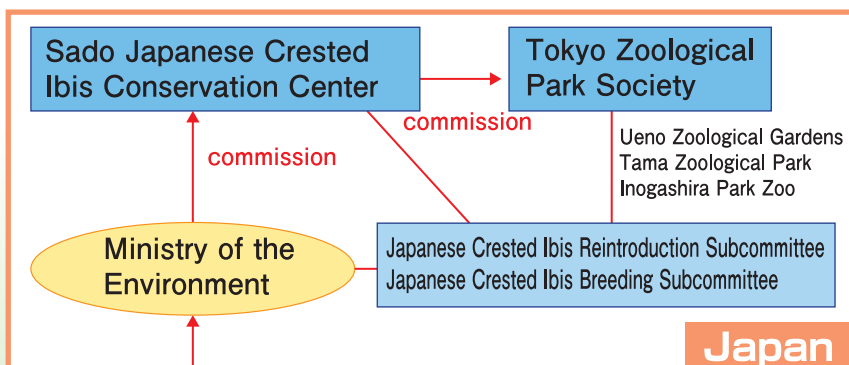
- 1985-1989: Hoa-Hoa was borrowed from China.
- 1990-1992: Midori (born in Japan) was moved to the Beijing Zoo.
- 1994-1995: Ron-Ron and Fon-Fon were borrowed from China.
- 1999: China sent Toki named Yo-Yo and Yang-Yang to Japan.
- 2000: China sent a Toki named Mei-Mei to Japan.
- 2004: Staff from the Wildlife Management Center of Shaanxi Provincial Forestry Department visited Japan.
- 2005: Staff from the Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Center visited Yang County in China.
- 2006: Staff from Sado visited Yang County again.
- 2007: China presented Toki named Huayang and Yishui to Japan.

(Management of Breeding)

- Collect and record data regarding Toki's physiology and ecology
- Conduct regular medical check-ups several times a year through zoos in Tokyo

(Study on Toki's Breeding in the Wild)

- Study Toki's natural egg incubation and brooding habits without human involvement



(Nuptial plumage)
Ibises have distinctive reproductive behaviors after the color of their wings (nuptial plumage) turn greyish-black in their breeding season (February-July).



(Yu-Yu hatched from an egg)
In 1999, Yu-Yu was born via artificial breeding for the first time in Japan.



(Feeding)
Liquid food is given to a chick through a syringe driver.



(Ai-Ai (right) and Shin-Shin (left))
Siblings hatched in 2000. When Toki are young, their face is yellow, the wings are grey and the lower part of their wings are yellow.



(Full-grown Yu-Yu)
Ibises in a breeding facility usually start mating at the age of 2.