



# Eastern Kosado

**Goal** Restore the natural environment (foraging, nesting and roosting habitats) that allows the recovery of the wild Japanese crested ibis

**Designation:**

National Eastern Kosado  
Wildlife Protection Area

**Location:** Eastern Kosado, Sado,  
Niigata Prefecture

**Year Initiated:** 2006

**Council for Creation of the  
Island of Human-Ibis Harmony**

Prior to captive bird release, the Council works on habitat improvement. Wetland restoration to create foraging sites has been implemented.



Captive-bred birds in the Sado Japanese Crested Ibis Conservation Center



Pine forest dieback and insufficient forest management have diminished nesting habitat.



A Japanese crested ibis named 'Yu-yu'

The eastern Kosado region once supported the last wild Japanese crested ibis (*Nipponia nippon*). While the region has been a Special Protection Zone of National Wildlife Protection Area since 1982, the historical foraging, nesting and roosting habitats, maintained by the regional farming, have diminished. Aging of farmers and seeking for efficient farming resulted in more terraced rice paddies to be abandoned. Community-managed forests have been degraded through insufficient forest cares. To assist the return of the wild ibis, various efforts for restoring the historical habitat in harmony with the regional society are in progress, such as restoring wetland habitat as feeding sites and establishing a mechanism to promote the collaboration among diverse actors.



Rice paddy cultivation has been abandoned, reducing wetland habitats.

## Approaches

- ▶ Improve various habitat types including wetlands that serve as year-round foraging grounds
- ▶ Establish a mechanism of cooperation among local residents, NGOs and other stakeholders →②

To secure foraging sites, most important for restoring wild ibis, habitat improvement has been initiated. Efforts to establish a mechanism of cooperation among various stakeholders are underway to preserve the habitats in the future.

### ① Improving wetland habitat to provide foraging grounds

Prior to captive-bird release, wetlands (biotopes) that can support loaches and other aquatic prey species are being created to secure foraging habitats. Monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness in creating foraging habitat.



### ② Establishing a mechanism of cooperation among local residents, NGOs and other private groups

To preserve the restored habitats for years to come, a mechanism of collaboration among the organizations is being developed through their coalition and information sharing.



Goal :  
Establish 60-birds wild populations  
by the end of 2015