

Cabot's Tragopan

Tragopan caboti

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Tragopan*

Recognized Subspecies: 2
Conservation status: Vulnerable
Wild Pop. Trend: Decreasing
CITES Appendix I
USFWS: Listed

Range: China endemic

Conservation Concern: The Cabot's Tragopan is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN. The greatest threat to this species is habitat fragmentation and conversion for monoculture tree farming. This species is dependent on branchy trees to support their nests and monoculture farm pines do not provide this habitat requirement.



Photo credit: Woodland Park Zoo

Species account: The Cabot's Tragopan is one of five species in the genus *Tragopan*. This species is the highest of conservation concern and has the most effective population in AZA. Tragopans are known for their amazing nuptial display which transforms the appearance of the male to more alien like than bird. This species is a Chinese endemic and is fully protected by Chinese law, but hunting is still reported in portions of its range. This large, temperate pheasant is a wonderful display bird and, although hardy in colder temperatures, it has been kept and bred in hot and humid environments.

This species was recommended as a program in the 2012 edition of the Galliformes TAG and was first managed by Eric Kowalczyk of the Woodland Park Zoo, who produced the third edition of the AZA studbook before he retired. An International Studbook was started in 2002 and is held by the Prague Zoo. The Cabot's Tragopan is the only species of Tragopan to be recommended to allow the population more space to grow and in effect become more stable.

AZA Role: To grow the population, the SSP will be focused on increasing breeding, reducing infertility and increasing the number of institutions housing Cabot's tragopan. The management of this species increases the opportunity for collaboration with private aviculturists through bird acquisition and learning artificial insemination techniques to aid in infertility issues.

TAG Program Goals: The WPA (World Pheasant Association) has a genetic testing project with the *Tragopan* genus that can establish purity of the species and can determine relatedness between individuals within the population. This species is listed on the U.S. Endangered Species Act and Appendix I on CITES. The AZA population has not been able to participate in this study. The TAG would like to work with AZA and determine a way to be a part of this important study.

Since the hens of all tragopan species look very similar, there has been a higher than expected hybrid issue within the European population as determined through the WPA study.

Education Emphasis

- Habitat conversion
- Nuptial display
- Erosion of biodiversity



Cabot's tragopan hen
Photo credit: Topeka Zoo

AZA Connections: The following table is not a guide of what the Cabot's Tragopan can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility), but it is instead meant to show the range connections between other AZA recommended program species.

Cabot's Tragopan <i>Tragopan caboti</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Collared Finch-billed Bulbul	<i>Spizixos semitorques</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Chinese Hwamei	<i>Garrulax canorus</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Red-billed Leiothrix	<i>Leiothrix lutea</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Azure-winged Magpie	<i>Cyanopica cyanus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Red-billed Blue Magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Swan Goose	<i>Anser cygnoid</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Vulnerable
Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Vulnerable
Lesser Indian Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Falcated Duck	<i>Anas falcata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Near Threatened
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Indian Spot-billed Duck	<i>Anas poecilorhyncha</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Baikal Teal	<i>Anas formosa</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Mandrian Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern
Baer's Pochard	<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Phase-in	Critically Endangered

**Disclaimer: this information was collected in 2017. If you have interest in any of these species, contact the perspective TAGs. All range overlap information was determined using the IUCN Red List range maps.

Conservation priority species that share the same range:

- Chinese Alligator *Alligator sinensis*
- Chinese Goral *Naemorhedus griseus*
- South China Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris*

If your institution supports a field project with one of these species, check if your conservation partner observing the Cabot's Tragopan in their study/ field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Cabot's Tragopan can illustrate the diversity of a biome at your institution and highlight a vulnerable bird.



Cabot's tragopan chick

Photo credit: St. Louis Zoo