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



Photo credit: Woodland Park Zoo

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.

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

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 hen Photo credit: Topeka Zoo

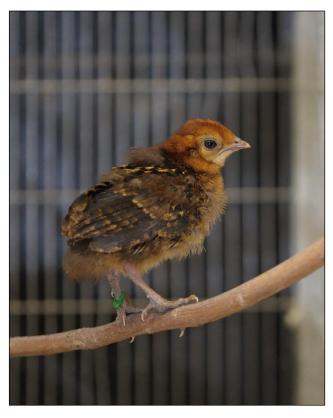
Cabot's Tragopan Tragopan caboti recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Collared Finch-billed Bulbul	Spizixos semitorques	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Chinese Hwamei	Garrulax canorus	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern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