

The Conservation Activities for Amphibians in Tokyo by Ueno Zoological Gardens Inokashira Park Zoo, Tama Zoological Park and Tokyo Sea Life Park

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Recently, amphibians have been decreasing worldwide. In Japan, the decrease of amphibians is especially notable in Tokyo. Tokyo Zoological Park Society takes charge of conservation activities for 11 species of amphibians in Tokyo.

As to ex-situ conservation, the three zoos and the aquarium gain merit by conserving individuals from the same habitat because we can easily exchange breeding individuals to maintain genetic diversity and the population size.

In 2006, Chytridiomycosis, which caused some catastrophic damages in overseas, was confirmed in Japan. Also, Invasion by Rana virus disease was confirmed in 2008.

Chytridiomycosis does not seem to spread among Japanese wild amphibians. However, we aim to establish a system to maintain captive populations as insurance to prepare for invasions by Ranavirus and other infectious diseases.

Therefore, establishing breeding methods is an urgent issue. Currently, 10 amphibian species have bred successfully.

In-situ conservation of *Cynops pyrrhogaster* was started at approximately 20 km away from the downtown Tokyo in 2002. As the results of breeding condition researches and conditioning the environment, the estimated population has been increasing.

Through the amphibian exhibitions, we try to introduce visitors to the charm of the animals and the current situation they are in. We carry out amphibian themed programs such as the special exhibitions, the field observations and the staff talk shows and field programs to tell the environmental importance of the amphibian habitats.