

World Cultural Heritage nomination

『Gold Mine on Sado Island』



Sado City

Sustainable Development Goals Report (Sado First Voluntary Local Review Report)

~Local SDGs Sado Island, aiming to be a model region for self-reliant
and decentralized society~

2024



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Message from the Mayor

The crested ibis, also known by its scientific name "Nipponia Nippon," is an internationally protected bird. The Japanese crested ibis was once found throughout Japan, from Hokkaido to Okinawa, but overhunting and other factors caused its numbers to decline, and the last time it survived in Japan was in 1981, when it became extinct in the wild on Sado Island. The ibis was last seen in the wild on Sado Island in 1981, when it became extinct in the wild. In order to restore the lost habitat of the crested ibis, the project has been working on "farming methods to nurture living creatures" that take into consideration the ecosystem of the rice paddies where the ibis feeds, and in 2008, the birds were successfully released. In recognition of these efforts to coexist with the crested ibis, the entire island was recognized as "Satoyama on Sado Island in Harmony with the Crested Ibis" in 2011, the first time in Japan to be recognized as a World Agricultural Heritage site.

Sado is also a remote island in the Sea of Japan. Rising sea water temperatures due to global warming and increasingly severe natural disasters pose a threat to the island's rich natural environment and socioeconomic activities. In terms of energy supply, the island is almost entirely dependent on marine transportation of fossil fuels from off-island sources, which poses a challenge in terms of environmental impact and disaster risk. To address these issues unique to the remote islands, the project aims to revitalize the local economy, improve disaster preparedness, and conserve biodiversity by expanding the introduction of renewable energy, and to create a small model of a sustainable, recycling-oriented society that is possible only on the remote island of Sado. Sado Island is said to be an advanced region in terms of issues, where many of the problems that could occur in Japan in the future are occurring ahead of their time. We believe that creating a model of a sustainable, recycling-oriented society on Sado Island, however small, will lead to the sustainability of Japan and, by extension, the world.

Sado, which is committed to biodiversity conservation, has declared Nature Positive in 2022. Along with the promotion of a zero-carbon island, we will continue to take on the challenge of investing in nature and promoting a recycling-oriented economy. We have set the creation of an island that coexists with its rich natural environment, deepens understanding of Sado's unique history and culture, and is passed on to future generations with pride and affection as the 18th SDG goal of Sado Island, and will work toward the creation of an environment, economy, society, and We will work toward the creation of a sustainable island where history and culture resonate with daily life.

July, 2024

Mayor of Sado City

渡辺 竜五



Introduction

City Overview

【Location and topography】

Located almost in the center of Niigata Prefecture on the Sea of Japan and connected by two shipping routes, Ryotsu Port-Niigata Port and Ogi Port-Naoetsu Port, the city is a remote island city with an area of about 855 km² and a population of about 50,000.

The city is formed by two mountain ranges, the Osado Mountains to the north and the Kosado Hills to the south, and the Kuninaka Plain between them, with Ryotsu Bay to the east and Mano Bay to the west. Several coastal terraces are developed through Osado and Kosado, and the coastline surrounding the island is approximately 280 km long.

Most of the island is designated as a national park or prefectural natural park, and is blessed with a rich and beautiful natural environment. In addition, the warm and cold currents off the coast of Sado Island have an influence on the island's climate, resulting in mild winters with less snowfall than in Honshu, and a rich vegetation with both warm and cold climate types.

【Culture】

The city's culture is said to be "Sado is a miniature version of Japan." The city's unique culture is a fusion of three cultures: aristocratic culture brought by aristocrats who were exiled to Sado, samurai culture brought by magistrates and officials from Edo (Tokyo) due to the development of gold and silver mines, and merchants and sailors' culture brought by the townspeople.

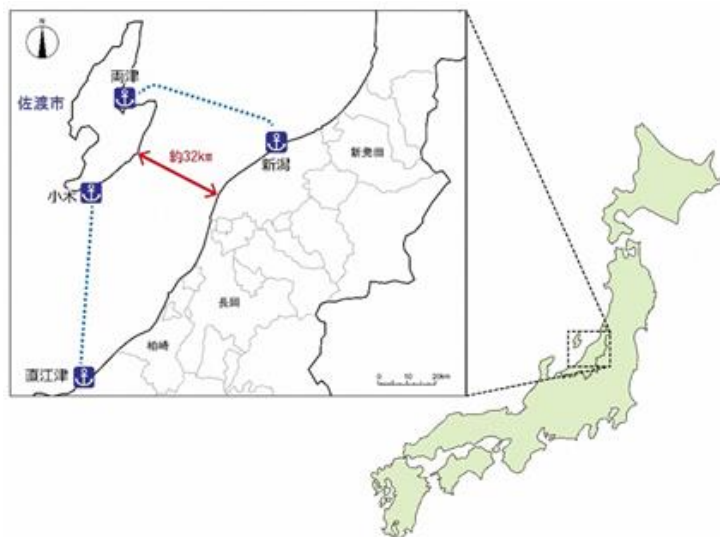
Sado is also known as an island that coexists with the crested ibis, a species designated as a special natural treasure that has been successfully bred and inhabited in the wild, and prospered as a gold and silver mining center during the Edo period (1603-1868), producing the largest amount of gold and silver in Japan.

【Industry】

The city's industries include agriculture, where rice is cultivated using the "farm for nurturing living things" method, which aims to coexist with the crested ibis and emphasizes biodiversity preservation, as well as fruit cultivation such as *okesa* persimmons and l'erectie, and horticultural cultivation such as asparagus. In the fishing industry, representative seafood from the Sea of Japan are caught, such as yellowtail caught in the

peak season when the fat is at its best, and *nanban* shrimps and snow crabs that live in the clean and nutrient-rich deep sea.

In terms of tourism, we promote stay-and-go tourism utilizing diverse local resources such as nature, history, and culture, including the "Gold Mine of Sado Island," which has been nominated as a World Cultural Heritage site, as well as the World Agricultural Heritage site and the Japan Geopark.



Three assets to be inherited for the future

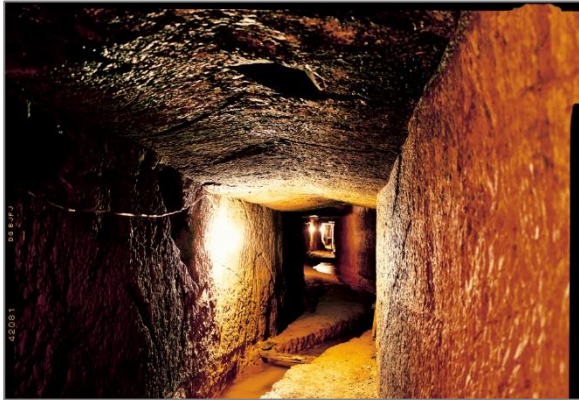
Even before the SDGs were proposed, the city has been making sustainable efforts to pass on to the future the history, culture, nature, and land nurtured by its predecessors. Here, we introduce three of the city's world-class assets.

1 Gold Mine on Sado Island

From the end of the 16th century to the mid-19th century, Sado Island was an island of gold-producing mines. Under the control and management of the Tokugawa Shogunate, the gold mines on Sado Island developed as a gold production system different from Europe and the regions under its influence, while technological exchange with overseas countries was limited by the isolation policy.

The mines produced gold of world-class quality and quantity (10% of world production, the highest purity of 99.54%) through traditional handicrafts, and the koban produced on Sado Island supported the finances of the Tokugawa shogunate. The gold mines on Sado Island are a rare industrial legacy that show a large scale and continuous gold production system for more than 250 years, and are well preserved as ruins and historical landscapes. In addition, various cultures and traditions brought by people from all over the country blossomed into Sado's unique mining culture, including performing arts and festivals, which are still carefully handed down today.

Thus, the gold mines of Sado Island, which are indispensable to the history and culture of Sado Island, have been nominated as a domestic candidate for UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage in 2022, with the aim of being registered in 2024.



Upper left: *Minamisawa* hydrophobic road (remains showing mining technology of the time)

Upper right: *Kyomachi Dori* (Townscape of *Aikawa*, Mining Town)

Below left: The symbol of Sado Island’s gold mines and a mountain *Doyu Warido*, where the mountain is broken into a V-shape (The remains of the manual digging of the gold vein at that time. (Remains as a result of manual digging of the gold vein at that time)

2 World Agricultural Heritage

The World Agricultural Heritage is a program of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to recognize globally important areas of traditional agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that are interrelated and integrated with unique traditional agriculture, forestry, and fisheries that have been passed down over generations while adapting to society and the environment, and with culture, landscape and seascape and agricultural biodiversity that are closely related and nurtured by such traditions. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) recognizes regions that are engaged in traditional agriculture, forestry, and fisheries of global importance.



Sado City Agricultural Heritage Mark

Our city is an island so rich in diversity that it has been called "a miniature version of Japan. In 2011, the entire island was recognized as

Japan's first World Agricultural Heritage site as "Satoyama on Sado Island in Harmony with the crested ibis" in recognition of its efforts in "farming methods that nurture living creatures" that take the rice paddies' ecosystem into consideration, beautiful scenery such as terraced rice fields, and traditional farming culture passed down from generation to generation, all with the aim of coexisting with the ibis.

Sado City Certified Rice "Toki to Kurasu Sato"

In the beautiful Satoyama of Sado Island, domestic wild ibis lived until the end of their life. However, due to overhunting and a decrease in feeding grounds resulting from the spread of agriculture that emphasizes efficiency, the domestic wild crested ibis has disappeared.



Subsequently, in 2008, the release of the crested ibis into the wild was decided to take place on Sado Island. In order for the crested ibis to return to the wild, it is essential to improve rice paddies and other riparian environments as feeding grounds for the crested ibis. Therefore, the "Certification System of *Toki to Kurashi no Sato Zukuri*" was established to restore the lost habitat of the crested ibis. The "Nurturing Creatures Farming Method," a technique for growing rice while securing a habitat for small creatures, is used to secure a feeding ground for crested ibis in the rice paddies. Another requirement for certification is that weeds are cut between rice paddies with a mower instead of using herbicides. The green rice paddies create a beautiful landscape unique to Sado, and thanks to the past efforts of the farmers and other related parties, many crested ibises are now fluttering in the Sado sky.

Abundant Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishery Products

The world-class Satoyama of Sado Island nurtures a wide variety of living creatures and produces a wide variety of agricultural and forestry products. The Satoumi, influenced by the warm and cold currents that collide offshore, is also blessed with a wide variety of marine products. Sado Island is also blessed with traditional "seasonal flavors" that make use of this abundance of ingredients and the wisdom left to us by our ancestors. This is the foundation of Sado's food culture, and efforts are underway to pass on the flavors of the past to the present and the future.



Traditional Performing Arts Passed Down from Generation to Generation
Onidaiko is one of the traditional performing arts of Sado Island. There are various theories as to its origin, such as that it is a variation of the lion dance, or that it evolved from a musical instrument played by

carpenters at the *Aikawa Mine*. *Onidaiko* appear at festivals held in spring and fall in various parts of the island. The drummers go from house to house in the community and perform a dance to pray for a bountiful harvest and family safety. *Onidaiko* is a traditional performing art that still lives on and has been passed down to the islanders.



3 Sado Geopark

The city was recognized as a Japan Geopark in 2013. Surrounded by the sea, Sado Island is rich in nature and has many Satoyama. Sado Island, surrounded by the sea and rich in nature, is home to terraced rice paddies and seafood, magnificent coastal beauty created by rough seas and uplifting movements of the island, the gold and silver mines, a world-class heritage of the land, coexistence with the Japanese crested ibis, a special natural treasure, and traditional performing arts such as *onidaiko*, which delight visitors.

The City is working to revitalize the region by utilizing three World Heritage sites: the World Cultural Heritage site on the theme of "Heritage Sites of Sado Mines with a Focus on Gold," the World Agricultural Heritage site on the theme of "Satoyama on Sado Island in Harmony with Ibis," and the Geopark on the theme of "300 million years of travel and human life on an island of gold and silver where ibis dance". These are not separate, and gold and Satoyama are deeply related to the history of the land (geo) of Sado Island, leading to the creation of attractive synergies that are not found in other areas.

The gold and silver veins on Sado were created by volcanic activity that occurred long ago, long before human habitation. These veins were then uplifted from the seafloor by subsequent tectonic movements and appeared above ground. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes can be catastrophic for humans, but it was these major earth changes that gave birth to the gold mines that have had such a profound impact on the history of Sado Island. Our predecessors, with the "blessings of the earth" brought back through time by volcanic activity tens of millions of years ago, have allowed the culture of mining to flourish, creating a variety of histories. In the past, the Sado Gold and Silver Mine, which boasted the largest output in Japan, attracted many people, and new rice paddies were widely developed to provide food for these people. Rice paddies spread across the *Kuninaka Plain*, which is low and rich in water, and on the gentle slopes of terraces and landslides that testify to the earth's fluctuations.

Sado Geopark celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2023. In the next 10 years, with "Enjoy," "Learn," and "Protect" as the pillars of our activities, we will aim to create a sustainable community while experiencing the history of the land of Sado and the charms of its nature and culture.



Social Conditions and Current Situation Surrounding Sado City

1 Declining population, declining birthrate and aging population

The City's population is declining and aging ahead of the rest of the country, and the birth rate is also declining due to the growing trend of unmarried and late marriages.

In response to the impact of population decline, the city is required to build a sustainable society by improving issues such as human resource shortage, economic burden, decline of local communities, and maintenance and management of the infrastructure of daily life.

2 Increased awareness of safety and security

As a remote island, it takes time for emergency evacuation and emergency/restoration activities, so it is necessary to create a system that enables rescue and evacuation as much as possible in the community.

In order to ensure the safety and security of citizens, it is necessary for the government and local communities to work together to create a safe and secure community through disaster prevention and disaster mitigation measures, including the construction of facilities, and the strengthening of self-help, mutual aid, and public assistance systems.

3 Environmental Considerations

The City relies on fossil fuels transported by sea for its energy needs, and its self-sufficiency rate in renewable energy is less than 10%. For this reason, the city has declared itself a "Zero Carbon Island" to reduce its environmental impact, and aims to achieve virtually zero CO2 emissions through local production and local consumption of renewable energy.

In addition, the city is committed to coexistence with the Japanese crested ibis, which once became extinct in the wild, and is working to preserve their habitat through the efforts of volunteers from within and outside the city.

4 Advances in Information and Communication Technology

The city is facing issues such as young people moving out of the city and aging industrial workers, and therefore, efforts to improve the employment and working environment and reduce workloads by utilizing information

and communication technologies are required.

In addition, regional disparities in medical care, education, and other areas have arisen due to a shortage of human resources caused by a shrinking population and distance restrictions, etc. Therefore, proactive use of information and communication technology is required to improve the employment and working environment and increase efficiency in industry, medicine, and administration.

5 Globalization

The City is working to strengthen its system for accepting and promoting inbound tourism that takes advantage of its world-class culture and nature, as well as foreign technical interns in industry and welfare.

In order to keep pace with globalization in a wide range of fields, including industry, business, and culture, the city needs to develop global human resources with an understanding of Sado's history and culture and the ability to interact and communicate effectively on the world stage and contribute to the local community.

Positioning of this report

This report is the first report to be published on the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs in Sado City in preparation for the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2024, referring to the process of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR: Voluntary Local Review), an international framework.

This report primarily reports on the progress of the SDGs Future City initiative, which was selected by the Japanese Cabinet Office in May 2022.

SDG Future Cities are selected from among cities and regions that are promoting basic and comprehensive initiatives in line with the principles of the SDGs, especially those with high potential to realize sustainable development through the creation of new value in the three aspects of economy, society, and environment.

Vision of Sado City

Basic Philosophy and Future Vision

1 Basic Philosophy

A sustainable island where history and culture flourish and people and nature coexist in harmony

~ An island where everyone, from children to the elderly, can shine with vitality~



Rising dragon terraced
rice field at *Iwakubi*

Crested ibis

Onidaiko

The city has developed a unique culture that blends diverse cultures as various people from all over Japan visited the city for the development of the Sado Gold and Silver Mine. In recent years, the city has been recognized for its rich natural, historical, and cultural resources, including recognition as a World Agricultural Heritage site in 2011 and a Japan Geopark in 2013.

At the same time, however, depopulation due to a declining population, the decline of local communities, and a sluggish economy are creating challenges, and there are concerns about a decline in the human resources and vitality that support Sado Island.

Therefore, we aim to create an island where everyone, from children to the elderly, can shine with vitality, based on the basic principle of "a sustainable island where history and culture flourish and people and nature can coexist in harmony."

In formulating the city's Comprehensive Plan, which upholds the basic philosophy of "a sustainable island where history and culture flourish and people and nature coexist in harmony", we conducted studies and deliberations at the Comprehensive Plan Council of Sado City, which consists of local citizens, related organizations, and academic experts, and at the internal review organization "Executive Committee of the Sado city Comprehensive Plan Council".

In addition, we received a variety of opinions, including those of the child-rearing generation and high school students, through questionnaires, workshops, town meetings, and other means of citizen participation, and used them as reference when considering policy measures and initiatives.

2 Vision of the future

A beautiful island where crested ibis dance

We will protect the rich natural environment where crested ibis soar and promote safe and comfortable urban development.

Okesa Island, an island of culture

We will promote the development of a town where children can have dreams and hopes.

An island overflowing with humanity and kindness

We will promote the creation of a cheerful community where human rights are respected and there is no discrimination or prejudice.

A bright island of smiles and longevity

We will promote the development of a city where citizens can continue to live in good health, both physically and mentally.

An island where the sweat of hard work shines

We will support sustainable industries, create employment opportunities, and promote vibrant community development in the region.

Local SDGs Sado Island Declaration

In 2021, the city held a symposium to realize a "Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)" also known as a local SDG, which was attended by approximately 230 people from businesses, financial institutions, agriculture-related organizations, high schools and universities, and government officials on the island.

At this symposium, we pledged to promote efforts toward the creation of a regional recycling symbiosis zone to create a virtuous cycle for the environment, economy, and society, and to endorse the "SDG Japan Model" declaration, and to become a model



region in Japan for solving various social issues and creating a sustainable region from Sado, a remote island that has achieved the return of the extinct crested ibis to the wild. The "Local SDGs Sado Island Declaration" was made, pledging to promote the resolution of various social issues and the creation of a sustainable region as a model region in Japan.

Using this day as a starting point, we have begun our efforts to create a Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES), take on the challenge of becoming an SDG future city, and become an advanced problem-solving region in order to realize the future vision set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

Column1 > Relationship between the Comprehensive Plan and the SDGs

In order to realize a sustainable society as stated in the SDGs, the City has clarified the relationship between the 17 goals of the SDGs and each of the policies listed in the Comprehensive Plan.

12 List of measures and their mapping to the SDGs

Basic objective 1 Creating a safe and comfortable town in harmony with rich nature

Policy	SDGs Goals	Development of Policies	SDGs Targets
1 Strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation functions	1.4,11.13	1. Raise disaster awareness and promote disaster education	11.b.4.7.13.3
		2. Fostering Voluntary Disaster Prevention Organizations	11.b.13.1
		3. Establishment of emergency information transmission system	11.b.1.5.13.3
2 Improvement of firefighting and emergency response systems	1.11.13	1.Improvement of firefighting system 2.Improvement of the emergency system	11.b.1.5 11.b.1.5.13.3
3 Promotion of traffic safety and crime prevention measures	3.11.16	1.Traffic accident prevention 2.Creating a Safe and Secure Community	3.6.11.2 11.3.16.1.16.a

(Excerpts from the Sado City Comprehensive Plan Documentation)

2 Mapping of measures against SDG goals and targets

	Target
	<p>《Target 1》</p> <p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3 Achieve adequate protection for the poor and vulnerable by 2030 through the implementation of appropriate social protection systems and measures, including minimum standards, in each country 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of poor and vulnerable populations to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate change-related extreme weather events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters, 1.b Establish appropriate policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies at the national, regional and international levels to support increased investment in actions to eradicate poverty
Development of Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-1-3 Establishment of emergency information transmission system (1.5) 1-2-1 Improvement of firefighting system (1.5) 1-2-2 Improvement of the emergency system (1.5) 2-3-1 Promotion of health promotion and care prevention (1.b) 2-3-3 Promotion of a comprehensive community care system in which medical care, nursing care, and welfare are provided in an integrated manner (1.3) 2-4-1 Enhancement of childcare support services in the community (1.3) 2-4-2 Improvement of information and consultation system for childcare support (1.3) 2-4-3 Support for Children and Families in Need (1.3) 2-6-2 Raise awareness of mutual support and enhance consultation support (1.3)

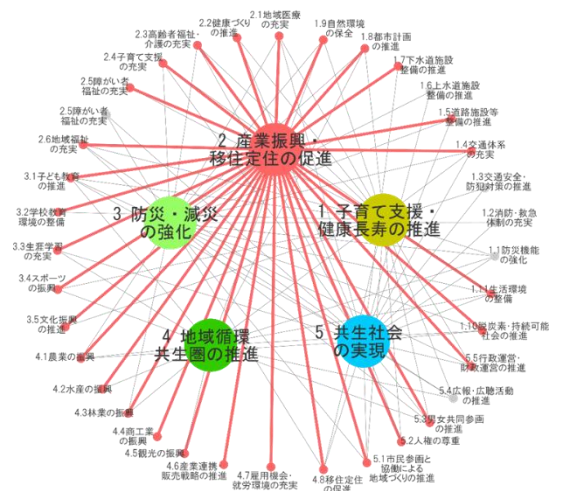
Priority goals and indicators for vision realization

Linkage between priority, cross-cutting initiatives and sector-specific measures

In order to realize the basic principles and steadily implement policies to address the city's pressing issues of population decline and issues unique to remote islands, we have established five "Priority and Cross-cutting Initiatives" that are positioned as cross-sectoral measures that should be focused on from a global perspective, an educational perspective, and the advancement of information and communication technology. The five "Priority Cross-sectoral Initiatives" are as follows.

- 1 Support for child rearing and promotion of health and longevity
- 2 Promote industrial development, immigration and settlement
- 3 Strengthen disaster prevention and mitigation
- 4 Promotion of regional circulation and symbiosis
- 5 Realization of a Symbiotic Society

In addition, a close examination and analysis of Sado City's past plans, etc., using text analysis and other methods, revealed that in order for Sado City to develop sustainably, it is essential to create a virtuous cycle among major sectors, such as conservation and sustainable use of natural resources (environmental aspect), revitalization of the economic sector centering on agriculture and tourism (economic aspect), and promotion of immigration and settlement and realization of a symbiotic society (social aspect). The analysis also found that the five priority and cross-sectoral initiatives and policies outlined in the comprehensive plan are interrelated and effective measures for achieving this goal. (Source: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES))




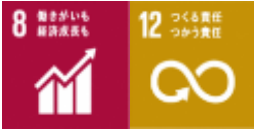

Relationship between Priority and Cross-cutting Initiatives 2 (Industrial Development and Promotion of Immigration and Settling in Sado Island) and each policy (excerpts from the Sado City Comprehensive Plan).

SDGs Future City Plan


In order to achieve its basic philosophy, the city established the SDGs Future City Plan, which sets priority SDG goals and targets and includes actions to be implemented, and was selected as an SDGs Future City in May 2022.








In March 2023, Sado City enacted the "Sado City Ordinance for the Promotion of Sustainable Island Development through the Creation of a Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)" as a common guideline to promote the SDGs throughout the island, deepening awareness of its selection as an SDG Future City by the government, and is promoting SDG initiatives together with citizens.

(Economy)




Goal, target number	KPI	
 8.3 9.2 9.b	Indicator: Gross city product	
	Current(Year2018): 172,380 million yen	Year 2030: 180,000 million yen
	Indicator: Tourism consumption per capita	
 8.9 12.b	Current(Year 2020): 41,408 yen	Year 2030: Over55,000 yen
	Indicator: Number of overnight stays in the city	
	Current(Year 2020): 189,210 person-nights	Year2030: Over 550,000 person-nights
 8.8 10.7 12.8	Indicator: Number of population movements in social dynamics	
	Current(Year 2020): ▲180 people	Year 2030: 0 person





(Society)

Goal, target number	KPI	
 1.3 4.2 5.1 16.2	Indicator: Number of births	
	Current(Year 2020): 245 people	Year 2030: Over 287people

Goal, target number	KPI	
 3.8	Indicator: Healthy life expectancy (average period of independence requiring 2 or more years of care) Average for males and females	
	Current(Year 2020): 80.3 years old	Year 2030: Over 81.0 years old
 11.4	Indicator: Number of World Heritage properties maintained	
	Current(Year 2020): 1 case	Year 2030: Over 8 cases
 4.7	Indicator: Number of participants in delivery classes, public lectures, etc.	
	Current(Year 2020): 4,190 people	Year 2030: Over 5,300 people
  5.5 12.8	Indicator: Percentage of women appointed to city agencies, advisory councils, etc.	
	Current(Year 2020): 26.2%	Year 2030: Over 40.0%
  4.7 10.2	Indicator: Percentage of those who would like to continue to live on Sado Island in the future	
	Current(Year 2020): 78.4%	Year 2030: Over 90.0%

(Environment)

Goal, target number	KPI	
 15.4	Indicator: Number of crested ibis established in the wild	
	Current(Year 2020): 484	Year 2030: Ibis not overpopulated, maintaining genetic diversity and population growth trends
  2.4 15.4	Indicator: Number of people engaged in paddy rice cultivation without pesticides and chemical fertilizers (cumulative total)	
	Current(Year 2020): 39 people	Year 2030: Over 60 people

Goal, target number		KPI	
 	7.2	Indicator: Amount of renewable energy installed in the city	
	9.4	Current(Year 2019): 5,968kW	Year 2030: 25,653kW
	12.5	Indicator: Recycling rate	
		Current(Year 2020): 17.9%	Year 2030: Over 22.6%
	13.3	Indicator: Greenhouse gas (CO2) emissions in the city	
		Current(Year 2018): 472 thousand t-CO2	Year 2030: Under 320 thousand t-CO2

Sado City Ordinance for the Promotion of Sustainable Island Development through the Creation of a Circulating and Ecological Sphere (CES)



<https://www.city.sado.niigata.jp/soshiki/2005/48113.html>

Municipal SDGs Model Projects

In May 2023, the City was selected as a Municipal SDGs Model Project as a particularly leading initiative among SDGs Future Cities.

The city's Municipal SDGs Model Project aims to integrate and improve the three aspects of economy, society, and environment by integrating major economic, social, and environmental projects to realize a recycling-oriented society, a decarbonized society, and a society that inherits its history and culture, making the most of Sado Island's world-class gold mine, coexistence with the Japanese crested ibis, a special natural treasure, and history and culture inherited from our predecessors. The city aims to improve the three aspects of the economy, society, and the environment in an integrated manner.

In addition, the City has been selected as a decarbonization leading region in June 2022, and is working to realize the SDGs Future City and a decarbonized society.

Main economic projects — Revitalization of local industry and creation of an island that continues to be chosen as a tourist destination —

- Living in Sado's unique history and culture and developing an environment that accommodates diverse work styles
- Attracting companies and human resources by promoting entrepreneurship and start-ups that stimulate the local economy
- Sustainable tourism utilizing the ibis, forests, villages, rivers, oceans, land, and islands as a whole

Main social projects — Creating a safe, comfortable, and lively community —

- Strengthening disaster resilience, creating a safe environment for childbirth and child rearing, and improving the convenience of government services
- Fostering children's love for their hometown and ability to survive in the information society
- Preservation and transmission of historical culture

Major Environmental Projects — Conserve biodiversity and break away from dependence on fossil fuels —

- Securing the feeding ground for crested ibis and biodiversity rice cultivation
- Installation of solar power generation equipment in public facilities
- Promote lifestyle change toward a decarbonized society (my bottle, 3Rs, food loss reduction)

Economy

Revitalization of local industry



Living in Sado's unique history and culture and developing an environment that accommodates diverse work styles

Attracting companies and human resources by promoting entrepreneurship and start-ups that stimulate the local economy



Business contest



Sado Livelihood Support

Reliable dissemination of information to prospective immigrants and development of a safe environment for them to live in after immigration

Creating an island that continues to be chosen as a tourist destination

Ibis, forests, villages, rivers, oceans, land, and islands Sustainable tourism that utilizes the whole Sustainable Tourism



Sports tourism

Stay-and-go tourism "Traveling as if you live on Sado Island"



Ruins of Kitazawa Floating ore dressing

Society

Improvement of Quality Of Life of Citizens

Creating a safe, comfortable, and lively community

- Strengthening Local Disaster Resilience
- Creating a safe and secure environment for childbirth and upbringing
- Improved convenience of administrative services

Inheritance of history and culture

Sado-style company management experience project

Fostering children's love for their hometown and ability to survive in the information society

Preservation and transmission of local historical culture expansion of applications using information and communication technology



AR Apps

Environment

Biodiversity Conservation and Promotion of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries



Organic produce school lunches

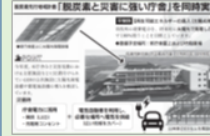
Providing organic produce for school lunches securing ibis feeding grounds and growing rice in a biodiverse environment (Toki to Kurashi no Sato Zukuri Zukuri Certification System)

Tree-planting project to use wood from Sado Island for playground equipment at nursery schools, etc. Promotion of recycling-oriented forestry and blue carbon



Tree Education Project

Breaking away from dependence on fossil fuels



Government buildings with a strong commitment to decarbonization and disaster prevention

Photovoltaic installations in public facilities (decarbonization leading regions) Support for the purchase of solar power generation equipment and electric vehicles

Lifestyle change and movement toward a decarbonized society (my bottle, 3Rs, food loss reduction)



Reduction of waste and food loss

Integrated approach linking economic, social, and environmental aspects

The City will promote initiatives that lead to solutions to issues in each of the economic, social, and environmental fields, and by implementing integrated initiatives that link the three aspects, the City aims to create a higher level of synergy in each field in a bidirectional manner.

This initiative will be undertaken in collaboration with a diverse range of people, including government officials, businesses, and citizens, with the aim of becoming a self-sustaining business in the future.

Synergy

Economy → Society: Increase in UI turnover, regional vitality

Society → Environment: Raising environmental awareness on the island

Environment → Economy: Environmental Island Branding

Society → Economy: Increase in the number of people interacting with the island due to its safe and attractive location

Environment → Society Comfortable town with renewable energy and disaster prevention

Economy → Environment Reduction of CO2 emissions through renewable energy and energy conservation

Collaboration with diverse stakeholders

The Sado Island Nature Symbiosis Lab was established in November 2022 with the aim of becoming a platform for co-creation by diverse stakeholders from industry, government, academia, and the private sector on and off the island. A project has been initiated to develop industries and enhance people's lives by taking advantage of the city's rich natural resources.

In addition, the city has established an original SDGs Future City Sado logo and is recruiting SDGs partners to promote Sado Island both domestically and internationally and to create local partners.



Sado Island Nature Coexistence Lab Logo Mark



SDGs Future City Sado



Sado SDGs Partner Inauguration Ceremony

A good cycle of self-discipline

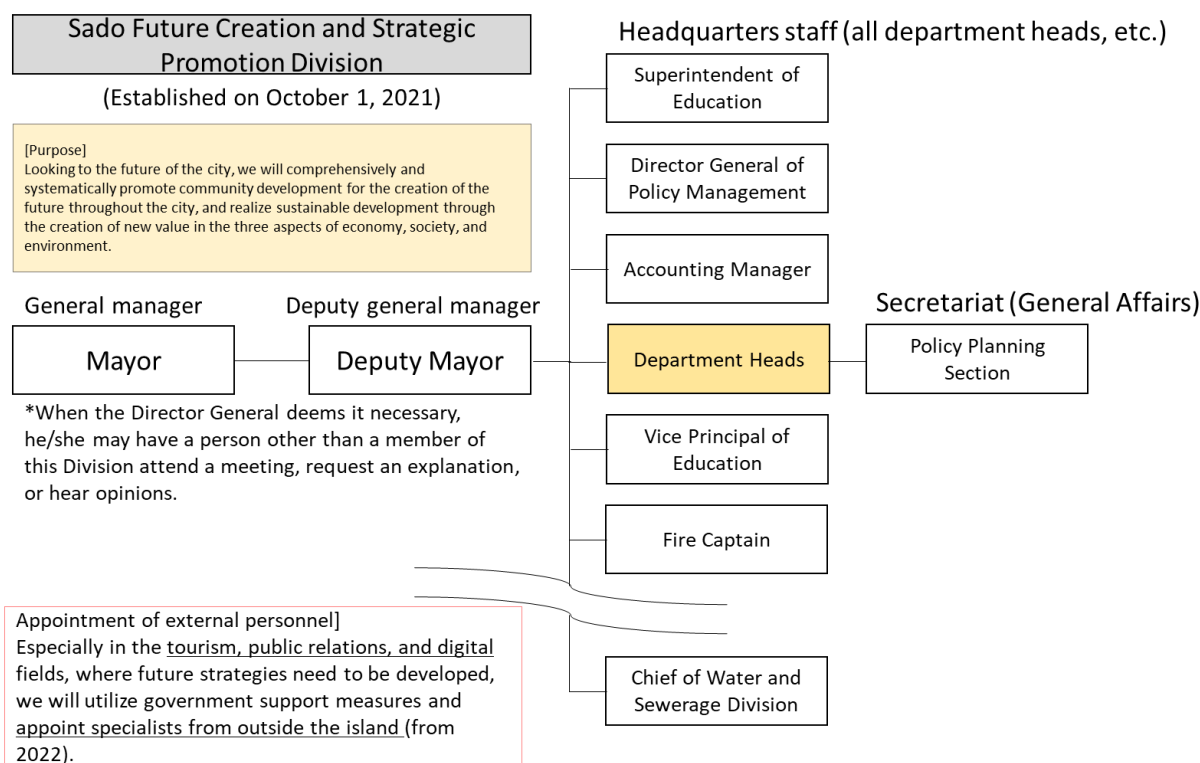
With the recommendation for registration as a World Cultural Heritage site and other factors supporting this move, and with tourism demand expected to increase in the future, we will consider securing voluntary financial resources, such as lodging tax and environmental cooperation funds, as a means of seeking cooperation for environmental conservation on the islands.

Promotion Structure and Cooperation with Stakeholders

Promotion Structure

In October 2021, we established the "Sado Future Creation and Strategy Headquarters," a policy-making body headed by the mayor, and established a system to work on sustainable regional development through the creation of new value in the three aspects of economy, society, and environment.

In April 2022, the agency organization was reorganized from a divisional system to a departmental system, and after the change, each department head, etc. became a member of the headquarters. Under the leadership of the head of the headquarters, the members of the headquarters share issues and coordinate to achieve synergy in each policy toward the ideal vision for 2030.



[Role]

- ① Integrated promotion of the Sado City Comprehensive Plan and other plans, etc.
- ② Agency-wide promotion of sustainable regional development for future creation
- ③ Comprehensive coordination of sustainable community development for future creation

Collaboration with Stakeholders

In order to seek opinions and advice from a wide range of experts and citizens in the integrated promotion of the Sado City Comprehensive Plan and other plans related to important measures, we are promoting collaboration with stakeholders both within and outside the community.

(1) Sado Future Creation and Strategy Promotion Council

[Role] Promotion and verification of comprehensive plans, etc.

[Structure] Industry and financial institution officials, representatives of local and regional organizations, officials of relevant government agencies, and academic experts, officials and academics.

(2) Council for the Promotion of Creating Villages Coexisting with Crested Ibis

[Role] Preserving biodiversity by promoting agricultural methods that nurture living creatures, etc.

[Structure] Agricultural cooperatives, Niigata Regional Development Bureau, regional organizations, etc.

(3) Sado Education Consortium

[Role] Developing human resources for the future of the region and providing better learning opportunities for children

[Structure] Elementary and junior high school principals' association, high school principals' association, universities, industry representatives, Niigata Prefecture Regional Development Bureau, etc.

(4) Sado City Decarbonization Promotion Council

[Role] Discussions on projects and initiatives to realize a decarbonized society, etc.

[Structure] Energy-related businesses, industry and financial institutions, experts, and officials of relevant government agencies

(5) Sado Island MaaS Study Group

[Role] To establish a diverse transportation system utilizing ICT for new mobility services in tourist areas and depopulated areas, and to work on inter-policy coordination.

[Structure] Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Public Safety Commission, road and port administrators, public transportation operators, public transportation user groups, tourism exchange organizations, academic experts, etc.






(6) Sado City Digital Utilization Promotion Deliberation Council

[Role] Promotion of initiatives for building a digital society and discussions related to the 'Sado City Digitalization Vision and Plan'

[Structure] Individuals with academic experience or specialized knowledge, staff from related organizations, and citizen recruited through open call.

Column2 > Communication to the International Community

The City has been communicating its commitment to the SDGs Future Cities and decarbonized society to the international community through its network of World Agricultural Heritage sites, which were registered for the first time in Japan in 2011, international conferences, global network of local governments, participation in international frameworks, and declarations of commitment to international targets.

-  World Agricultural Heritage Site (GIAHS) recognition (2011)
This system was established to recognize globally important areas that have rich ecosystems, beautiful landscapes, traditional culture, and performing arts nurtured by agriculture, forestry, and fisheries in harmony with nature, and to pass them on to the next generation.
-  Join ICLEI (ICLEI) Council of Local Authorities for Sustainable Cities and Regions (2022)
A global network of local governments joined by cities and regions committed to creating a sustainable future
-  World Summit Pledge / Signed to Japan (2022)
An international framework in which the heads of local governments pledge to work against climate change, to create sustainable and resilient communities, and to contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.
-  Nature Positive Declaration (2022)
Statement of the City's activities as a first step to halt the loss of biodiversity and put it on a recovery track.
-  International Conference on Agriculture for Biodiversity ICEBA 2023 (2023)
International Conference on Agriculture with the theme of "Future of Agriculture" based on the SDGs and decarbonization, organic products, and farming methods that care for living creatures.

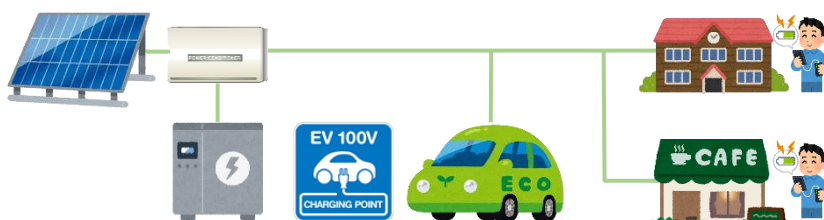
Specific Initiatives

Creating a model of energy x disaster prevention x tourism

The *Nishimikawa* area, where diverse actors from industry, academia, and government are active, is an EV recharging spot vacuum area and faces the risk of power outages and village isolation due to fallen bamboo following heavy snowfall. In order to solve environmental, social, and economic issues, industry, academia, and government are working together to create a model of energy x disaster prevention x tourism by installing solar-powered EV recharging facilities, utilizing unmaintained bamboo, and promoting tourism by utilizing the time people spend waiting to recharge their EVs.

EV recharging using solar power generation and the development of electricity supply spots using storage batteries in the event of a disaster

EV charging facilities with 100% renewable energy utilizing solar power generation have been installed. Electricity generated by solar power will be used (1) to recharge EVs and (2) stored in storage batteries for use at power supply spots available to citizens in the event of a disaster.



Bamboo chip pavement for new use of bamboo

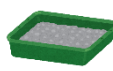
Heavy snowfall in December 2022 caused obstruction of snow removal on city roads and power outages due to fallen bamboo. Since the number of opportunities to utilize bamboo as a resource has decreased and the number of unimproved bamboo forests has increased, which is one of the reasons for the fallen bamboo, we will demonstrate bamboo chip pavement, in which bamboo is converted into chips and used as pavement material, as a new way of utilizing bamboo. Bamboo chip pavement has excellent cushioning and durability, weed control and heat resistance, and also aims to recycle bamboo from unimproved bamboo forests as a resource in the region, which is one of the local issues.



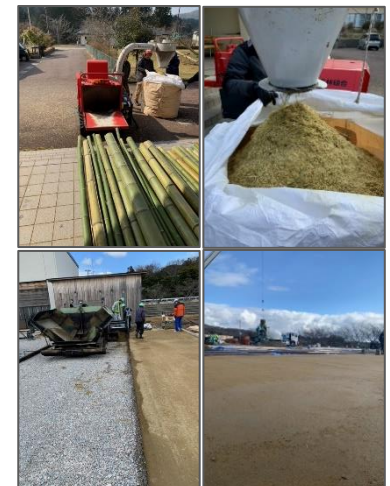
竹



土



固化材



Promoting tourism by utilizing EV charging waiting time

The area around the EV charging facilities is a scenic spot with the Sea of Japan stretching out before you and a beautiful sunset, allowing you to relax and enjoy the scenery while waiting to charge your EV.



While waiting for the battery to charge,
you can enjoy the beautiful sunset over Mano Bay.

Photo provided by OBATA SAKE BREWERY Co., Ltd.

Establishment of institutions for the formation of an autonomous virtuous circle, etc.

1 Sado SDGs Partners

Established in 2022 to recruit businesses that can implement SDG initiatives together with the City to strengthen partnerships toward the realization of a sustainable city. Currently 100 companies are registered (as of March 2024); the goal is to have 200 companies registered by 2030.

2 Sado Island Nature Symbiosis Lab.

It will function as a platform for human resource development and networking to create diverse projects that contribute to solving local issues, such as study sessions on the utilization of bamboo resources, corporate partnership roundtables to promote corporate exchange and collaboration, and SDGs dissemination events.

3 Lodging tax and environmental cooperation fees

We will consider ways to secure voluntary financial resources, including methods to seek cooperation for environmental conservation on the islands, in order to capture the expected increase in tourism demand, which will be supported by the recommendation for registration as a World Cultural Heritage site.

Conclusion

In March 2024, our city will celebrate the 20th anniversary of its municipal organization.

It is very moving that we are reaching the goal of registering the gold mines on Sado Island as a World Heritage site, which we have been working on for many years, and I would like to express my respect to all those involved.

We will communicate the cultural and historical values that Sado prides itself on both domestically and internationally, and in cooperation with the national and prefectural governments, we will take on the challenge of realizing the registration of the island as a World Cultural Heritage site. We will work to transform Sado Island from an advanced problem-solving center to an advanced problem-solving center, while strengthening cooperation with the national and prefectural governments, businesses and universities on and off the island.

In response to the issues surrounding the local community, we will work together and cooperate with various stakeholders who have a relationship with our city toward the achievement of the SDGs, bringing together new perspectives, wisdom, experience, and resources, and tackling them without being bound by conventional frameworks.

Reference

SDGs Future City Overall Plan Status of achievement of initiatives contributing to the promotion of municipal SDGs As of the end of FY2022

(Planning period 2022-2024)

No	Initiative name	Index-name	Initial value	Actual results for 2022	Actual results for 2023	Actual results for 2024	Target value for 2024	Achievement (%)
1	A beautiful island where crested ibis dance~a safe and comfortable town in harmony with rich nature~	Number of people engaged in paddy rice cultivation without pesticides and chemical fertilizers (cumulative total)	Year 2020 39 People	Year 2022 42 People			Year 2025 55 People	19%
2	A beautiful island where crested ibis dance~a safe and comfortable town in harmony with rich nature~	Amount of renewable energy installed in the city	Year 2019 5,968kW	Year 2022 6,083kW			Year 2025 15,392 kW	1%
3	A beautiful island where crested ibis dance~a safe and comfortable town in harmony with rich nature~	Five-step evaluation by the Building Energy Saving Performance Indication System (BELS) for the construction and renovation of the City Hall Building	Year 2021 Started construction work	Year 2022 Construction Progress 50%			Year 2025 Obtain ZEB Ready certification or higher	50%
4	A bright island of smiles and longevity~A town where each and every person can play an active role and live a vibrant life~	Number of births	Year 2020 245 People	Year 2022 206 People			Year 2025 270 People	-156%
5	A bright island of smiles and longevity~A town where each and every person can play an active role and live a vibrant life~	Percentage of people who are obese (BMI 25 or higher)	Year 2020 30.0%	Year 2022 29.8%			Year 2025 26.2%	5%
6	A bright island of smiles and longevity~A town where each and every person can play an active role and live a vibrant life~	Percentage of citizens who engage in physical activity for at least 1 hour per day	Year 2019 81.0%	Year 2022 76.2%			Year 2025 84.0%	-160%
7	A bright island of smiles and longevity~A town where each and every person can play an active role and live a vibrant life~	Percentage of untreated (diabetes and hypertension)	Year 2019 19.6%	Year 2022 22.7%			Year 2025 19.0%	-517%
8	Okesa Island, an island of culture~a town that fosters pride in one's hometown and hope for the future~	Number of World Heritage properties maintained	Year 2020 1 Case	Year 2022 1 Case			Year 2025 6 Cases	0%

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Sustainable Development Goals Report

July 2024

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