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Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane

Prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention
of Migratory Species in collaboration with
the International Crane Foundation

Fourth Edition



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 collaboration with the International Crane Foundation

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CONSERVATION MEASURES FOR THE SIBERIAN CRANE FOURTH EDITION

including

Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation
Measures for the Siberian Crane

Revised Conservation Plans for the
Western, Central and Eastern Populations

Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane
and Other Waterbirds

Report of the Sixth Meeting of Siberian Crane Range States
(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-19 May 2007)



The Sixth Meeting of Siberian Crane Range States was hosted by the Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan and was co-organised by the International Crane Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species

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Foreword

The Sixth Meeting of Range States of the endangered Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) was convened in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 15-19 May 2007, under the aegis of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane*. The meeting was hosted by the Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with organisational support provided by the International Crane Foundation (ICF). The 47 delegates in attendance included representatives of all eleven Siberian Crane MoU Signatory States, as well as observers from other interested countries and nongovernmental organisations.

The Meeting reviewed the steady progress made towards implementation of the Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern populations of the Siberian crane, as well as positive developments in relation to an associated UNEP/GEF-funded Siberian Crane Wetland Project. Detailed plans were discussed and agreed for a wide range of activities to be carried out over the next three years.

With the signatures effected during the meeting of representatives of Wetlands International and the Cracid & Cranes Breeding and Education Centre (CBCC), the *Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane* now has eleven Signatory States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; as well as three co-operating organisations: ICF, Wetlands International and CBCC.

The Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Cranes (and other waterbirds) was formally launched during the meeting. The Site Network is an integral part of the Siberian Crane MoU, providing a means for protecting migratory waterbirds and their habitats along the Siberian Crane migration routes. It is intended that the site network will secure breeding, staging, and wintering sites for waterbirds across the flyway. Ten sites from five countries were formally accepted into the Network, with additional nominations pending from Range States.

The meeting approved the structure of new reporting and Conservation Plan templates; and Focal Points undertook to monitor progress and to coordinate national activities on an annual basis. While this is an operational matter, the efficient management of information is fundamental for planning, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of conservation measures under the MoU.

Differences in conservation status of the Siberian crane populations of the Eastern, Western and Central Flyways engender varied conservation responses: In the Eastern Flyway, the main focus remains *in-situ* conservation, defensive measures against threats to habitats caused by rapid economic development, and improving information on the status and distribution of the species. In the Western and Central Flyways, the main focus is on preparing the way for restoration efforts. This involves controlling the factors that have caused population declines, most notably through the education of hunters and enforcement of relevant species protection laws, coupled with improving protection of the key sites throughout the migration cycle.

Applied research remains central to the programme's effectiveness. Captive breeding efforts have been strongly developed, with over 100 Siberian Cranes now in captivity and three main breeding centres capable of producing good numbers of chicks for release. Release techniques have been well tried and tested, and can be further refined. More attention should be given to enhancing international cooperation for more effective transfer of birds for release purposes.

More satellite telemetry (PTT) work is needed across all flyways to find out more about the migration routes, staging areas and juvenile summering areas, as well as the movements and fate of released birds. Indeed, we still know little about the movements of the scattered individuals remaining in Western and Central Asia, including the possibility of unknown wintering areas.

For all of the above, continued international cooperation through an effective mechanism recognized by the governments of the Range States remains essential. The CMS Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding will become increasingly important and relevant, as the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project officially comes to an end in early 2009. That project has succeeded in building capacity for conservation at site, national and flyway levels – thereby improving the security of some 16 key sites for the Siberian Crane and having contributed significantly towards the overall implementation of the MoU.

One of the most important challenges that remain is to develop other sustainable means of financing the implementation of the Conservation Plans under the MoU. This will ensure that the progress made under the UNEP/GEF project is institutionalized, and will provide a solid foundation on which to build further actions for the conservation of Siberian cranes and the habitats critical for their survival.

Douglas Hykle

Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species

Introduction

The present document consists of five sections containing: the text of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane and Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Siberian Crane populations; a listing of activities to be carried out by each Range State; information about the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds; a summary report of the Sixth Range State meeting (Almaty, Kazakhstan, May of 2007); and reference materials.

Part I: Memorandum of Understanding and Conservation Plans

The Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Siberian Crane populations agreed in May 2007 are presented separately in tabular form. Each is structured according to four basic objectives, followed by a number of programmes and specific activities which recognize both the similarities and differences in the actions required to restore the Western, Central and Eastern populations. At their core, all three plans aim to: (1) reduce mortality; (2) monitor and research; (3) increase numbers and genetic diversity; (4) protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane; (5) increase public awareness and ecological education; and (6) enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange among the Range States and other partner organizations.

A Range State or partner organization has been identified as being primarily responsible for implementation of each activity. In many instances, one or more collaborators have been identified to assist in carrying out a particular activity. In some cases, the proposed activities are identified to be carried out in all of the Range States without mention any of them specifically named. For these generic activities, the column "Range States or Organisations" shows "All Range states-WP", "All Range states-CP", or "All Range states-EP" depending on whether the reference is to the Western, Central or Eastern population. The last two columns of the table show the progress and results achieved in 2004-2007 and specific follow-up activities identified by the meeting to be undertaken in 2007-2009.

Part II: Activities to be carried out by Individual Range States and Co-operating Organisations

For ease of reference, the activities listed in the last column of each Conservation Plan have been extracted and reorganized in a separate table, arranged in alphabetic order according to Range State and Co-operating Organisation.

Part III: Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds (WCASN)

This new section includes the Guidelines for the Preparation of Site Nomination Documents, and summary datasheets for the WCASN sites approved at the launch of the site network.

Part IV: Summary Report of the Range States Meeting

This section consists of the report of the Sixth Range State meeting, prepared by ICF and the CMS Secretariat, including the meeting agenda, list of participants, list of documents, and list of administrative and technical focal points.

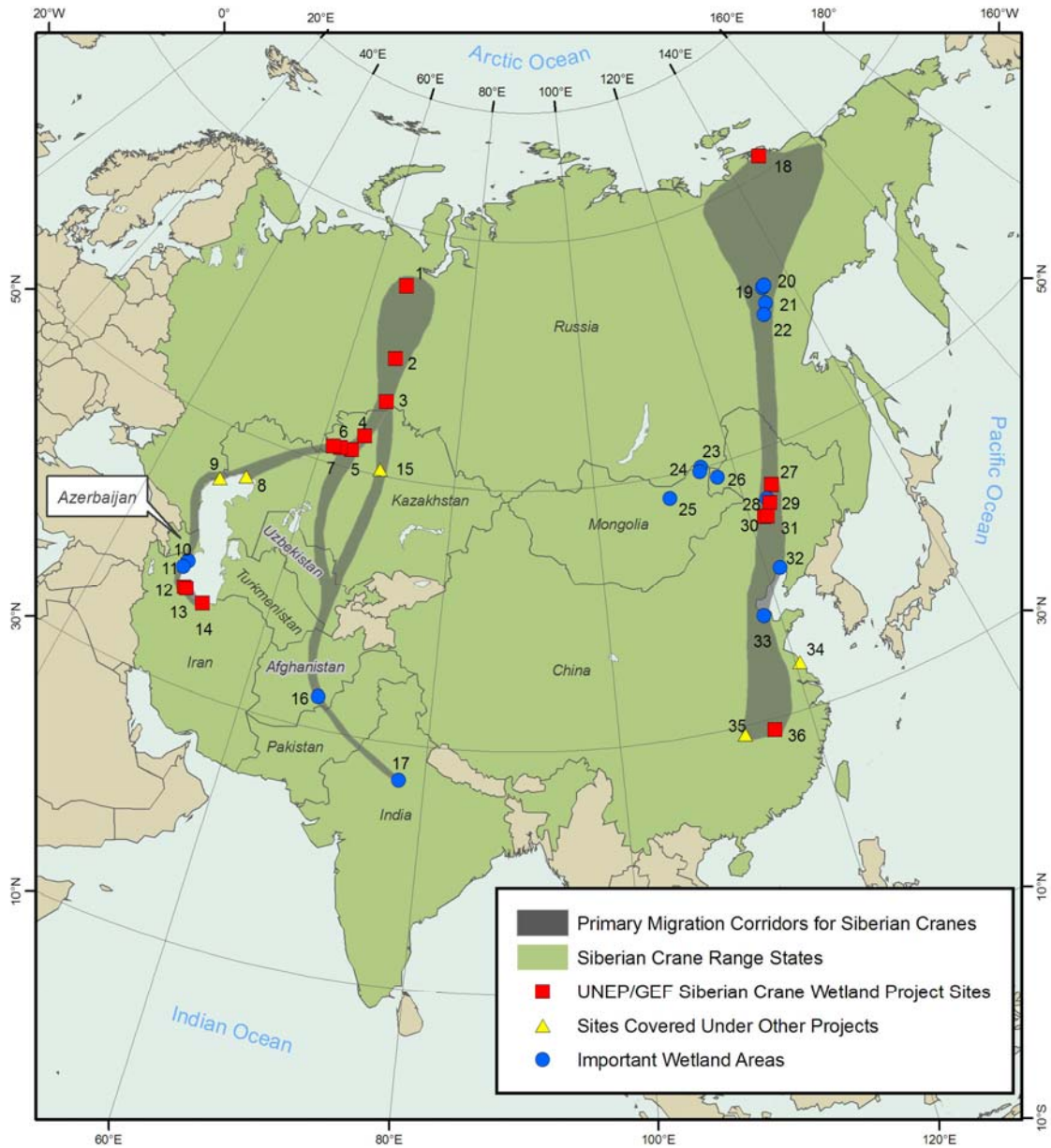
Part V: Reference Materials

This section includes a summary of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project, which has played a major role in supporting the implementation of the CMS MoU since its inception in 2003.

AF	Afghanistan
ARRINP	All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection (Russia)
AZ	Azerbaijan
CAF	Central Asian Flyway Project
CAS	China Academy of Science
CBCC	Cracid & Crane Breeding and Conservation Center (Belgium)
CEP	Caspian Environmental Programme
CEPA	Communication Education & Public Awareness
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CN	People's Republic of China
COP	Conference of the Parties
CP	Central Population of Siberian Cranes
CWGE	Crane Working Group of Eurasia
CWG	Crane Working Group
DoE	Department of Environment (Iran)
EAAFP	East Asian–Australasian Flyway Partnership
ECONET	Development of Ecological net for Long-term Conservation of Biodiversity in the Central Asia Ecological regions
ECORA	UNEP/GEF Project: An Integrated Ecosystem Management Approach to Conserve Biodiversity and Minimize Habitat Fragmentation in Three Selected Model Areas in the Russian Arctic
EP	Eastern Population of Siberian Cranes
FDK	Fereydoon Kenar (Iran)
FHC	Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture (Kazakhstan)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information System
IBA	Important Bird Area (under BirdLife International Programme)
IBPC	Institute for Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone (Yakutia, Russia)
ICF	International Crane Foundation
ICWWG	Indian Crane & Wetlands Working Group
IN	India
IR	Islamic Republic of Iran
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
KARB	Konda and Alymka Rivers Basin (Russia)
KNP	Keoladeo National Park (India)
KRB	Kunovat River Basin (Russia)
KZ	Republic of Kazakhstan
MN	Mongolia
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources (Russia)
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forest (India)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MT	Model Territory
NABU	National Agency of Bird Union (Germany)
NCU	National Coordination Unit of the UNEP/GEF SCWP
NEACSN	North East Asia Crane Site Network
NEACWG	North East Asia Crane Working Group

NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NNR	National Nature Reserve (China)
NR	Nature Reserve
NSA	Non-shooting Area
NWFP	North West Frontier Province (Pakistan)
OBNR	Onon-Baljinsky National Park (Mongolia)
OCBC	Oka Crane Breeding Centre (Russia)
OSBNR	Oka State Biosphere Nature Reserve (Russia)
PK	Pakistan
PTT	Platform Terminal Transmitter (for satellite telemetry studies)
RAS	Russian Academy of Science
RCU	Regional Coordination Unit of the UNEP/GEF SCWP
RFFI	Russian Fund of Fundamental Researches
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (United Kingdom)
RRR	Republic Resource Reserve (Yakutia, Russia)
RU	Russian Federation
SCF	Siberian Crane Flyway
SCFC	Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator
SEA	Save the Environment Afghanistan
SFA	State Forestry Administration (China)
SF	Sterkh Foundation (Russia)
TM	Turkmenistan
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GEF SCWP	UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UzCWG	Uzbekistan Crane Working Group
WCASN	Western/ Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane (and other waterbirds)
WI	Wetlands International
WIWO	The Working Group on International Waderbird and Wetland Research
WP	Western Population of Siberian Cranes
WWF	World Wild Fund for Nature

Figure 1: Map of Western, Central and Eastern Siberian Crane Population Flyways



Map by the International Crane Foundation 2005
 Cartographer: Zoë Rickenbach

Key to Figure 1: Map of Western, Central and Eastern Siberian Crane Population Flyways

Site # on Map	Location	Short Name for Map	Country	Type of Use	Map Label
<i>Western Flyway</i>					
1	Kunovat River Basin	Kunovat	Russia	Breeding	SCWP Site
2	Konda & Aymka River Basins	Konda & Aymka	Russia	Breeding	SCWP Site
3	Tyumen & Kurgan Transboundary Wetlands	Tyumen & Kurgan	Russia	Migration	SCWP Site
4	Tyuntyugur Hollow & Zhanshura Lake	Tyuntyugur & Zhanshura	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
5	Naurzum Nature Reserve	Naurzum NR	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
6	Lakes Urkash & Zharsor	Urkash & Zharsor	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
7	Kulykol Lake	Kulykol	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
8	Ural River Delta	Ural Delta	Kazakhstan	Potential migration stopover	Other project site
9	Volga River Delta	Volga Delta	Russia	Migration	Other project site
10	Shirvan National Park	Shirvan	Azerbaijan	Migration	Important Wetland
11	Kyzyl-Aghach Nature Reserve	Kyzyl-Aghach	Azerbaijan	Migration	Important Wetland
12	Bujagh / Sefid Rud Delta	Bujagh / Sefid Rud	Iran	Potential wintering site	SCWP Site
13	Amirkelayekh & Rud Posht	Amirkelayekh & Rud Posht	Iran	Potential wintering site	SCWP Site
14	Fereydoon Kenar	Fereydoon Kenar	Iran	Wintering	SCWP Site
<i>Central Flyway</i>					
1	Kunovat River Basin	Kunovat	Russia	Breeding	SCWP Site
2	Konda & Aymka River Basins	Konda & Aymka	Russia	Breeding	SCWP Site
3	Tyumen & Kurgan Transboundary Wetlands	Tyumen & Kurgan	Russia	Migration	SCWP Site
4	Tyuntyugur Hollow & Zhanshura Lake	Tyuntyugur & Zhanshura	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
5	Naurzum Nature Reserve	Naurzum NR	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
6	Lakes Urkash & Zharsor	Urkash & Zharsor	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
7	Kulykol Lake	Kulykol	Kazakhstan	Migration	SCWP Site
15	Tengiz Lake	Tengiz	Kazakhstan	Migration	Other project site
16	Ab-i-Estada	Ab-i-Estada	Afganistan	Migration	Important Wetland
17	Keoladeo National Park	Keoladeo NP	India	Wintering	Important Wetland
Site # on Map	Location	Short Name for Map	Country	Type of Use	Map Label

Eastern Flyway

18	Kytalyk Resource Reserve	Kytalyk RR	Russia	Breeding	SCWP Site
19	Kuoluma-Chappanda Resource Reserve	Kuoluma-Chappanda RR	Russia	Migration	Important Wetland
20	Kuoluma	Kuoluma	Russia	Migration	Important Wetland
21	Kyupskiy	Kyupskiy	Russia	Migration	Important Wetland
22	Chabda	Chabda	Russia	Migration	Important Wetland
23	Daursky Nature Reserve	Daurski NR	Russia	Summering	Important Wetland
24	Daguur Nature Reserve	Daguur NR	Mongolia	Summering	Important Wetland
25	Khurkh-Khuiten Valley	Khurkh-Khuiten	Mongolia	Summering	Important Wetland
26	Dalainor National Nature Reserve	Dalainor NNR	China	Migration	Important Wetland
27	Zhalong National Nature Reserve	Zhalong NNR	China	Migration	SCWP Site
28	Tumuji National Nature Reserve	Tumuji NNR	China	Migration	Important Wetland
29	Momoge National Nature Reserve	Momoge NNR	China	Migration	SCWP Site
30	Keerqin National Nature Reserve	Keerqin NNR	China	Migration	SCWP Site
31	Xianghai National Nature Reserve	Xianghai NNR	China	Migration	SCWP Site
32	Shuangtaihekou National Nature Reserve	Shuangtaihekou NNR	China	Migration	Important Wetland
33	Yellow River Delta National Nature Reserve	Yellow River NNR	China	Migration	Important Wetland
34	Yancheng National Nature Reserve	Yancheng NNR	China	Migration	Other project site
35	Dongting Lake National Nature Reserves	Dongting NNR	China	Wintering	Other project site
36	Poyang Lake Basin	Poyang	China	Wintering	SCWP Site