

Conservation Plan for the Western Population of Siberian Cranes

Introduction

The Western population of Siberian Cranes breeds in a wilderness area of the Tyumen Region, Russian Federation. The breeding area may extend into the Khanty-Mansisky Autonomous Region as well as Tyumen Region. Collaboration between authorities from these administrative territories is needed to conserve the entire wetland complex where Siberian Cranes breed. The territory is vast, but the Siberian Crane is familiar to local people and it is a sacred bird for native Khanty and Mancy tribes. The migration route extends from the breeding area in a southwesterly direction to the northern shore of the Caspian Sea. The most important stopover sites are at the Naurzum Nature Reserve (Kazakhstan) and the Volga River Delta (Astrakhan Nature Reserve, Russian Federation). Siberian Cranes have spent one to four weeks at these two sites in different years.

The migration continues south along the west side of the Caspian Sea over Dagestan (including the important stopover at the Agrakhan Federal Zakaznik in the Terek River estuary) and then on to Azerbaijan. The most significant stopover sites for Siberian Cranes in Azerbaijan include the Sharabad Cape (to the north from Baku), Shirvan Steppe National Park, and Kurinskaya Kosa in the Kyzyl-Agachsky Nature Reserve. Migration continues to the east along the south side of the Caspian Sea to flooded rice fields used for duck trapping near the town of Fereydoon Kenar (including the villages of Esbaran and Sorkh Rud) in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Siberian Cranes usually arrive on the wintering grounds in late October or early November and remain until late February or early March.

After the discovery of the wintering site in the Fereydoon Kenar area in 1978, the Siberian Crane population numbered between 9-14 birds until the late 1990s, and usually included one or two juveniles. Within the large trapping area (damgah) near Fereydoon Kenar, pairs defended large territories against the intrusion of other cranes. It appeared that the damgah could support only three to four pairs. The smaller damgahs did not support territorial pairs suggesting they might not be large enough for such a function. However, these damgahs were often used as feeding and roosting sites by non-territorial cranes, which were perhaps unpaired and sub-adult birds. The small damgahs are also used if the cranes are frightened from the large damgah.

Due to various factors such as the space demands of the cranes, mortality, illegal hunting, and habitat destruction, the population not only failed to increase above 9-14 birds, but then started to decline. A male marked with a PTT in early 1996 was only seen in Iran again during the winters of 1996-1997. One adult female marked on the breeding grounds in 1996 was seen on the wintering grounds for four years, one year in company with a marked juvenile. The population declined to 9 birds in 1996-1997 and 1997-1998 (2 marked birds), 7 in 1998-1999 (1 marked bird), 5 in 2000-2001 (1 marked bird), and just 3 adults during the winters of 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (no marked birds) and 3 adults and one juvenile in 2003-2004. In 2004-2005 again 3 adults (a pair and a single bird) spent the winter at Fereydoon Kenar, but only two single cranes arrived in autumn of 2005. In autumn of 2006, again two single Siberian Cranes arrived on the wintering grounds, but one crane disappeared in January 2007. In 2007-2008 only one wild Siberian Crane wintered in Iran. Aerial surveys over other wetlands in Mazandaran Province in 2000 failed to find Siberian Cranes. Comprehensive ground surveys in both Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces in 2000 and in 2003 also failed to locate cranes, and annual midwinter waterbird counts across the South Caspian lowlands have not found any.

Evidence from West Siberia and from Astrakhan Nature Reserve in Russia and from Naurzum Nature Reserve in Kazakhstan continues to suggest the presence of alternative wintering grounds in Iran or elsewhere. The annual variation in the number of adult birds observed in Iran at that time is indicative of replenishment of the flock from an unknown source. The other cranes might have been forced to use other wetlands on the Caspian

lowlands - wetlands where waterfowl are hunted, not trapped. Perhaps mortality of cranes outside the damgahs is partly responsible for the failure of the population to increase despite excellent productivity. The existence of additional birds is confirmed by the sighting of 4 Siberian Cranes in Astrakhan Nature Reserve almost one month after the arrival of two Siberian Cranes on wintering grounds in Iran in 2006. In addition, there have been annual observations of 2-7 Siberian Cranes during migration stopovers in Naurzum Nature Reserve in Kazakhstan.

Reducing mortality

The recovery of this population depends on reducing mortality during migration and on the wintering grounds, and enhancing numbers and genetic diversity.

Satellite telemetry units (i.e. Platform Terminal Transmitters or PTTs) placed on birds on both the wintering and breeding grounds have identified a route that overlaps significantly with the northern portion of the route of the Central population. To accurately locate the breeding grounds of the Iran birds, a wild male was captured and marked with a PTT and was tracked along its migration route to its breeding territory in the Uvat District of Tyumen Region (Russian Federation). According to PTT data, migration routes of both the Western and Central populations coincide between north Kazakhstan and Uvat District. This suggests that genetic mixing between the two populations occurs. Unmated birds from one population (i.e. juveniles, divorced birds, or birds that lose a mate) might pair with birds from the other population during migration or on summering areas of juveniles and non-breeding birds.

In North American cranes, males return to breed in natal areas. Females follow a male to these regions, which might be a great distance from the area where the female was raised. If this pattern occurs in Siberian Cranes, a female from one population might follow a male from the other population to his natal area, leading to genetic mixing of the two populations. It is hypothesized that Juvenile Siberian Cranes do not return to natal areas for several years until they reach sexual maturity. PTTs should be placed on a juvenile Siberian Crane on the wintering grounds to help identify the unknown juvenile summering areas.

Satellite tracking studies show that there is a possibility that Siberian Cranes, parent-reared by Eurasian Cranes on the breeding grounds of the Central population of Siberian Cranes, may spend the winter along the Iran-Afghanistan border. In addition, costume-reared Siberian Cranes released at Belozersky Federal Refuge (Zakaznik) in Armizon District in the south of Tyumen Region might join flocks of Eurasian Cranes and winter in Iran, although on 10-12 October 2007 there was an unconfirmed report of 10 Siberian Cranes with Eurasian Cranes in Bukhara region of Uzbekistan. Because Siberian Crane chicks probably require supplemental feeding during migration, it is important to provide supplemental food during the winter and to monitor the released cranes to determine if they can survive without supplemental feeding from the adults.

Flourishing colonies of captive Siberian Cranes at the Oka Nature Reserve in Russia and the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in the United States have provided juvenile cranes for experimental release programmes in Russia and Iran. A third major captive colony has recently been established at the Cracid and Crane Breeding and Conservation Centre (CBCC) in Belgium.

In the winter of 1996/97 two captive parent-reared birds imported from ICF were released at Fereydoon Kenar, Mazandaran Province. Due to permit and logistical problems, the birds did not arrive in Iran until late winter. The captive-reared cranes did not join the wild cranes and did not migrate. In the wintering 2002/03 and 2003/04, the release programme was resumed at the wintering site at Fereydoon Kenar. In 2002/03, three juvenile Siberian Cranes raised in Oka Crane Breeding Centre, were released in the Fereydoon Kenar area.

One of the juveniles, a parent-reared female joined the wild single Siberian Crane and departed the wintering place together with it and a wild pair on 2 March 2003. This bird was marked with colour bands and PTT and was tracked along the Caspian Sea to Azerbaijan and further to Dagestan, Russia. The PTT signal stopped moving in Dagestan on 4 March and PTT data continued to arrive from the same general area until 10 June 2003. Although ground searches and interviews of the local people were conducted, the fate of this bird is unknown. Two other costume-reared juveniles did not join the wild Siberian Cranes. They were caught and transferred to an aviary in the education centre of the Bujagh National Park, Islamic Republic of Iran.

In 2003/04, two parent-reared juvenile Siberian Cranes were released at Fereydoon Kenar. Within a few days they joined a wild single Siberian Crane. They started migration with this bird, departing the wintering place together. Unfortunately one of the two parent-reared juvenile Siberian Cranes, marked by PTT, landed in Gilan Province not far from the release site just after starting migration. It was captured and transferred to Bujagh National Park.

This Siberian Crane was kept in Bujagh National Park until November of 2005 when it was released at Fereydoon Kenar damgah two days after the arrival of two single wild Siberian cranes. The released bird joined one of them and started migration in the spring of 2006 together with the wild cranes. In January 2007, two captive-reared Siberian Cranes were transferred from Oka Crane Breeding Center to Iran. One of them was marked with a PTT and released at Fereydoon Kenar damgah. The released bird started migration together with the wild crane. Unfortunately PTT signals stopped just after the Siberian Cranes left their wintering grounds. The other captive-bred Siberian Crane was kept in an enclosure near the damgah and released in November 2007 just after the arrival of one wild Siberian Crane. At the end of February 2008, the wild and released birds started migration together.

The winter release experiments showed that it is necessary to release juvenile, parent-reared, captive-produced cranes in late autumn to allow longer social bonding time with the wild cranes. The provision of additional food during the whole winter period is also needed so that the released juveniles are in optimal physical condition for the spring migration. This recommendation is supported by the results of the successful project of human-led migration of Whooping Cranes in North America, where they are provided with food during the wintering season in Chassahowitzka Nature Park in Florida.

The main efforts to bolster this population have focused on releases of costume-reared Siberian Cranes on staging areas at Belozersky Wildlife Refuge (Zakaznik) in Armizon District in the south of Tyumen Region of the Russian Federation. During 1991–2003, 141 young Siberian Cranes were released and 89 birds of these birds joined wild Eurasian Cranes to initiate fall migration. There is not enough evidence to determine which Eurasian Cranes migrate to India and which migrate to the border of Iran and Afghanistan. At the Astrakhan Nature Reserve, four Siberian Cranes were released and three started migration with wild Siberian Cranes. Unfortunately, there have been very few recorded observations of these released Siberian Cranes.

Human-led migrations (i.e. using ultralight planes) with Sandhill and Whooping Cranes in North America have resulted in over 80% of the birds that were led south returning to their release area the following spring. Consequently, Russian scientists have been meeting with North American researchers to explore the possible application of these techniques to Siberian Crane releases. This research is more feasible along the entire migration route of the Western population, whereas it has been impossible to conduct such research using the Central population due to the situation in Afghanistan in recent years.

Habitat Protection

The sites known to be used by Siberian Cranes along the Western flyway migration route are subject to varying levels of threat from human activities. The breeding grounds in West Siberia are relatively remote and human pressures are generally low, mainly consisting of hunting, fishing and forest product collection. However, oil and gas exploration activities are beginning in the Uvat area, and the resulting human disturbance and potential impacts on habitats in the longer term are a significant threat.

Around the staging areas in the Armizon District of Tyumen Region (Russian Federation) and northern Kazakhstan, agricultural development was significant in the past. However, this has declined and there is a current window of opportunity to secure areas for conservation. Privatization of farmland in Armizon has resulted in increasing waterbird-crop damage conflicts. Disturbance from agricultural, hunting and fishing activities are the main issues at these sites at present. Disturbance associated with potential development of a hunting lodge is also a risk and negotiations are in progress to expand the protected area while locating hunting activities in areas that will not impact the migrating birds.

Many pressures affect the Volga Delta (including significant hydrological effects of the Volgograd Dam), industrial pollution, oil pollution, intensive agriculture, fires as well as sport hunting and fishing activities. Changes in the level of the Caspian Sea have had a profound impact on the delta and its birdlife. Overall, it can be concluded that current pressures on wetland habitats in the staging areas are relatively light, with the exception of the Volga Delta. The main threats to Siberian Cranes arise from hunting and other forms of human disturbance.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the conservation of the cranes at the main wintering site (Fereydoon Kenar) is a highly sensitive issue with local communities who use the area for commercial duck trapping and shooting. The support of these communities is essential for the future security of this flock, requiring close cooperation with government authorities. The Department of Environment (DoE) increased control of shooting in this area through the establishment of a new non-shooting area and is consulting with local communities on conservation measures. Four Trappers Associations have been established under the UNEP/GEF SCWP¹. Further activities are necessary to improve and secure efficient control of shooting. Much of the Caspian lowlands, including both natural wetlands and rice field areas, is under pressure from urban development as a result of rapid tourism growth.

Under the UNEP/GEF SCWP, conservation actions are being taken to help assure the long-term survival of Siberian Crane habitats in the breeding grounds in Russia, the staging areas in southern Russia and Kazakhstan, and the wintering sites in the Islamic Republic of Iran. CMS and ICF will help promote conservation activities in the staging areas in Astrakhan Nature Reserve, Dagestan and Azerbaijan, which are not included in the UNEP/GEF SCWP, by strengthening the flyway level coordination and establishing a network of protected areas.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) represents a potential threat to Siberian Cranes as well as other wild waterbirds. HPAI incidences have been recorded in all CMS MoU Range States except Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, with significant wild bird mortality in some cases. Increased surveillance and reduction of transmission risks at key sites are desirable.

¹ Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and Other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia.

Education and Public Awareness

CMS and ICF have produced a video about Siberian Cranes that has been repeatedly broadcast over most of the Range States. In addition, a beautiful poster with a picture of Siberian Crane by Robert Bateman, was developed in 13 languages and distributed in 10 countries.

The Sterkh Foundation ("sterkh" is the Russian word for Siberian Crane) in Salekhard, just north of the breeding grounds of cranes, is committed to the recovery of the population of Siberian Cranes as well as the Central population in West Siberia through widespread and effective public education. In 2005 the Sterkh Foundation organized a major Crane Festival that included children's art and exhibition of Siberian Crane pictures and an international workshop on the "Flight of Hope" Project. In 2006, the Sterkh Foundation published a colourful book containing the best children's artwork from the festival.

Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia have the greatest challenges in crane education and public awareness. Restored in 2000, the Crane Working Group of Eurasia initiated and organised Crane Celebrations in 2002. Since that time, Crane Celebrations have become annual events and the number of involved countries and sites has increased significantly. In 2005 Azerbaijan and in 2006 Iran participated in organizing these events. For this activity, education materials including pins, stickers, calendars, posters, brochures and a booklet "101 Questions about Cranes" by Professor Vladimir Flint and "Materials for Crane Celebration" are produced and distributed annually.

In Iran, a public awareness programme is underway under the UNEP/GEF SCWP, which is integrated with community participation work at the sites. A set of postage stamps depicting the Siberian Crane was issued in 2007 with support of the Dept of environment, SCWP and WWF.

Objective I: Reduce mortality						
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
1.1. Determine and monitor prevailing threats of all types to the Siberian Crane and its habitats	a) Assess and monitor threats in the Siberian Crane nesting and wintering grounds and along the migration routes	AZ	WCASN	<p>KZ: Monitoring of threats has been made at all sites under the United Nations Environment Programme / Global Environment Facility Project "Development of a Wetland Site and Flyway Network for Conservation of the Siberian Crane and other Migratory Waterbirds in Asia" (the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project or the UNEP/GEF SCWP) implementation.</p> <p>RU: 1) Monitoring work on threats to Siberian Cranes is continuing on the UNEP/GEF SCWP sites (Kunovat River Basin (KRB), Konda and Alymka Rivers Basin (KARB), the south of Tyumen Region, especially in the Belozersky Wildlife Refuge). In 2004-2007 in KARB the oil drilling was stopped, the territory was clean; the hearing of the case of oil drilling in the wildlife refuge territory is in process now.</p> <p>2) Monitoring work on threats to Siberian Cranes is also continued in Volga River Delta in Astrakhansky Nature Reserve (NR).</p>	AZ: Continue monitoring threats at sites nominated to the Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds (WCASN) or in newly investigated sites.	1
		IR	UNEP/GEF SCWP		IR: Conduct assessments through Fereydoon Kenar (FDK) management plan, and include them in action plan of the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	1
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP		KZ: Continue to monitor threats on the UNEP/GEF SCWP sites (Naurzum, Zharsor-Urkash) and initiate same work in the west of republic and on territories investigated by PTT and other methods in future, if finance will be available.	1
		RU	UNEP/GEF SCWP		RU: Continue monitoring of threats to Siberian Cranes on the UNEP/GEF SCWP sites and on territories investigated by PTT and other methods in future.	1
	b) Identify and document best practice protocol for conservation and management of the Siberian Crane to minimize threats to the Siberian Crane and its habitats	KZ	FHC	<p>IR: 8 local guards hired in FDK since 2004.</p>	KZ: Use Forest and Hunting Committee (regional departments) to implement best practice based on experience in West Siberia, ban hunting on lakes in autumn where Siberian Cranes stop during migration.	2
IR		IR: Maintain involvement of local guards to protect Siberian Crane and other species.	1			

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority		
1.1. Determine and monitor prevailing threats of all types to the Siberian Crane and its habitats	c) Determine hunting seasons and best practices in areas used by Siberian Crane	AZ	DoE	IR: Hunting is regulated under the Department of the Environment (DoE) management system and since 2005 no hunting permit has been issued due to the risks of avian influenza.	AZ: No problem with hunting. Situation is optimal, as hunting is prohibited due to avian influenza. No action required.	3		
		IR			IR: Maintain non-shooting conditions in FDK and improve situation by construction of new guard station.	1		
		KZ			FHC	KZ: In connection with the threat of expansion of avian influenza in 2005, spring hunting was prohibited and the open seasons for autumn hunting were shortened and postponed. In 2006 open seasons for spring hunting were shortened. According to the decision of local governmental agencies hunting at some important water bodies including Kulikol, Tyuntyugur, Zharsor, Sankebay Lakes and at their coastal zone (from 0.5 to 3 km), was prohibited.	KZ: Prepare list of the Siberian Crane migration stopovers for stakeholders to declare them as non-shooting areas.	2
		RU			Ministry of Agriculture	RU: Hold consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture and regional Administrations in Siberian Crane range about closing of spring hunting season.	1	
1.2. Strengthen and improve enforcement of legislation for crane protection	a) Review existing national and local legislation to address gaps or challenges to Siberian Crane conservation	AZ	Hunting and Fishing Society	IR: Penalty for killing Siberian Crane has been raised \$12,000. KZ: The Hunting and Fishing Society has prepared materials including the national legislation in the sphere of protection, reproduction and use of animal species, the programme on hunting minimum, the rules on hunting, the lists of protected animal species and the list of penalties and other punishment for illegal hunting, in hardcopies and on CD.	AZ: Plan to list Siberian Crane into the new edition of the Red Data Book of Azerbaijan under law.	2		
		IR			IR: Review current legislation on nature protection and submit new proposal to National Environment High Council.	2		
		KZ			KZ: Continue realization of the national programme on securing hunting territories for stakeholders. Enforce stakeholders' responsibility for nature protection measures.	2		

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
1.2. Strengthen and improve enforcement of legislation for crane protection	b) Ensure effectiveness of law enforcement	RU	MNR		RU: Legislation is already optimal, no action required.	2
		KZ			KZ: Initiate training on nature protection legislation. Increase the education standards for rangers.	
		RU			RU: Plan to work on increasing the compensation fee for damage to Siberian Crane (poaching) with Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).	

Objective II: Monitoring and research						
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
2.1. Monitor and study the Siberian Crane and its habitats	a) Conduct regular monitoring of known areas to determine estimated numbers of the Siberian Crane	AZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: All important sites in northern Iran (including Siberian and Eurasian Crane wintering sites) are under the full coverage of mid-winter waterfowl census in cooperation with international organisations such as WIWO. The results are sent to Wetlands International (WI). Therefore there is no need for aerial survey anymore. This activity has been cancelled in the UNEP/GEF SCWP workplan.	AZ: Continue general systematic monitoring through ground surveys.	2
		IR			IR: Develop and implement Siberian Crane monitoring plan.	1
		KZ			KZ: Regular monitoring was provided within Kostanay Region through ground surveys in 2004-2006. Siberian Cranes were sighted every year during both spring and autumn migrations.	KZ: 1) Continue monitoring of known stopovers in Kostanay Region along Siberian Crane migration routes. 2) Provide monitoring in west regions of Kazakhstan (Emba River and Ural River Delta) if funds are available.
		RU	ICF, UNEP/GEF SCWP, WI	RU: Ground and aerial surveys on Siberian Crane territories were done every year. In 2004-2006 aerial surveys were done in KRB and KARB under the UNEP/GEF SCWP and the Siberian Crane reintroduction work.	RU: Continue to provide regular monitoring (ground and aerial) on proposed WCASN sites and in Astrakhan NR.	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
2.1. Monitor and study the Siberian Crane and its habitats	b) Determine new migration stopovers, wintering areas, as well as summering areas of Siberian Cranes through satellite or radio tracking, questionnaires, surveys, and other methods	AZ	TU, ICF, OSBNR	<p>IR: 1) In 2004 ground surveys were conducted in Khorasan Province in northeast Iran to search for alternative Siberian Crane wintering grounds in Iran. Special attention was paid to a site near Turkmenistan's border. The surveys showed that near Turkmenistan's border and along the Hari Rud River there are no habitats suitable for cranes to winter and stop over.</p> <p>2) PTT activities were conducted by DoE in winters of 2003/04 and 2006/07 in cooperation with the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and Oka State Biosphere Nature Reserve (OSBNR).</p>	<p>AZ: Investigate other flyway in the west of republic through ground survey.</p>	3
		IR			<p>IR: Provide regular monitoring in Ardebil site according to reports about migration from other stopovers through the Range States.</p>	2
		KZ	IBA	<p>KZ: A number of wetlands in the central and southern Kazakhstan, including Irgiz and Turgay downstream, have been studied within the framework of Important Bird Area (IBA) programme. Questionnaire surveys have been done in Kostanay Region, as a result of which new data on sightings Siberian Cranes have been received and one more stopover area has been identified.</p> <p>2) Investigation of Shily Lake was included in autumn monitoring programme in 2006, where sightings of Siberian Cranes were recorded; a short-term investigation of Sarykopa Lake was made in 2004-2005.</p> <p>Complex studies in Ural River Delta and Kurgaldzhinskiy NR have been conducted by national Kazakhstan UNDP/GEF Wetland Project, but no special observations regarding Siberian Crane were made.</p> <p>4) Survey of the northeast coast of the Caspian Sea was conducted with financial support of oil companies by the employees of the Institute of Zoology in the framework of IBA programme.</p>	<p>KZ: 1) Continue to determine new Siberian Crane areas in Kostanay Region and to expand activity to other regions located along flyways of the Siberian Cranes if funds are available.</p> <p>2) Continue to study the Siberian Crane stopovers on the basis of the data, which have been received before as a result of PTT and direct observations. If possible, it should be done through IBA programme or attraction of other resources.</p> <p>3) Continue to survey the northeast coast of the Caspian Sea in the framework of IBA programme. Probably it can be done through monitoring programme of oil company.</p> <p>4) Search for financial resources for organisation of studies of new areas on Siberian Crane flyways. It is reasonable to implement such works in coordination with PTT programme.</p>	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
2.1. Monitor and study the Siberian Crane and its habitats	b) Determine new migration stopovers, wintering areas, as well as summering areas of Siberian Cranes through satellite or radio tracking, questionnaires, surveys, and other methods	RU		RU: All reports of Siberian Crane sightings collected and analyzed. Records received by interviews, Siberian Crane questionnaires and aerial surveys.	RU: Conduct aerial survey to west of Urals, if funds are available.	2
	c) Investigate all reported sightings of the Siberian Crane	All Range States-WP			All Range States-WP: Continue to investigate all reported sightings.	1
		IR			IR: Use experience of Russia and Kazakhs-tan for questionnaires to improve investigation.	1
		KZ		KZ: All locations of Siberian Crane sightings have been studied; the information has been submitted to the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator immediately.	KZ: Continue investigation of all reported sightings.	1
	d) Conduct ecological studies of the Siberian Crane in your country	IR			IR: Support student project on ecological studies of Siberian Crane.	2
2.2. Maintain and contribute to the regional database on the Siberian Crane and its habitats	Regularly maintain and update regional database on the Siberian Crane and its habitats	All Range States-WP			All Range States-WP: Provide data on the Siberian Crane and its habitats to the regional database.	1
2.3. Promote or take into account avian influenza surveillance at important crane sites	a) Collaborate with, and complement activities of other agencies to strengthen sample collection for surveillance of avian influenza in migratory waterbirds at Siberian Crane and other important crane sites	ICF	WISA	ICF: Drafted guidelines for reducing AI risks at wetland protected areas under UNEP/GEF SCWP and presented to PA managers at regional workshop in Nanchang in March 2007.	ICF: Finalize guidelines for reducing AI risks at wetland protected areas and make them available to all Range States and partner organisations.	1
		IR	DoE, Vet Dept and Ministry of Health		IR: DoE will facilitate sample collection of wild birds at FDK, Bujagh National Park and all protected areas.	1
		KZ		KZ: In 2007 some samples were taken from wetlands of Kostanay and South-Kazakhstan Regions.	KZ: Undertake sample collection of waterbirds in important wetlands.	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
2.3. Promote or take into account avian influenza surveillance at important crane sites	b) Raise public awareness about avian influenza at network sites and other important crane sites	IR	DoE		IR: Raise public awareness about avian influenza through brochures, booklets and workshops.	1
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP		KZ: Raise public awareness about avian influenza among decision makers, local communities and veterinary agencies at WCASN and important crane sites.	1
	c) Translate and disseminate international best practice/guidelines on response measures to avian influenza outbreaks in wild birds in and around network sites and other important crane sites.	CMS Secretariat and Task Force	All Range States-WP		CMS: Make CMS Guidelines available through the Scientific Task Force.	1
		ICF	UNEP/GEF SCWP		ICF: Make the UNEP/GEF SCWP guidelines available.	1
	IR	DoE		IR: Disseminate guidelines with other agencies through official processes.	1	
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP, NGOs		KZ: Disseminate guidelines with other agencies and local groups at Siberian Crane sites and other important crane sites.	1
2.4. Evaluate efficacy and application of research/ monitoring	a) Review and evaluate research and monitoring activities for their efficacy	AZ	AOS		AZ: Publish book on current situation with cranes in Azeri languages.	3
		KZ			KZ: Prepare review of experience of monitoring of Siberian Crane and proposal for improved implementation of system of monitoring in Kostanay Region.	2
	b) Apply monitoring and research results to improve management practices and mitigation of threats to the Siberian Crane	KZ			KZ: Prepare list for stakeholders of wetlands used by Siberian Cranes as stopovers to declare them as non-shooting zones.	2

Objective III: Increase numbers and genetic diversity						
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
3.1. Promote recovery of the Siberian Crane populations	a) Produce eggs and chicks of Siberian Cranes for release programmes	ICF, CBCC, RU-OCBC		<p>RU-OCBC: 1) During period 2004-2006 28 eggs were laid and 20 chicks were reared in Oka Crane Breeding Center (OCBC) for release programmes.</p> <p>2) One pair of Siberian Cranes is ready for transportation from OCBC to Kabul Zoo. Need confirmation from Kabul Zoo that an appropriate facility is completed.</p>	ICF, CBCC, RU-OCBC: Plan and cooperate on providing eggs and chicks at early stage of breeding season for reintroduction programme.	2
		RU-OCBC	ICF, CBCC		RU-OCBC: Produce Siberian Crane eggs and chicks for release programmes. Explore new techniques of release taking account of biological features of the Siberian Crane.	2
	b) Restore Siberian Crane populations through release programmes	ICF	CBCC	RU	<p>CBCC: The purchase of an airplane for "Flight of Hope" project was investigated by Sterkh Foundation (SF) and Russian experts. Although it was possible to buy a plane, it was not feasible to maintain it, arrange the logistics in the field, or store it inside when not in use.</p>	ICF: Provide training on new capture and release techniques.
IR, RU		DoE, RU-OCBC, ICF				

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
3.1. Promote recovery of the Siberian Crane populations	b) Restore Siberian Crane populations through release programmes	KZ RU	RU AZ, SF, ICF, CBCC, RU-OCBC	<p>RU: According to release programme, the following birds were released during 2004-2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In August of 2004, 10 juvenile and one-year old Siberian Cranes reared in OCBC were released in Belozersky Wildlife Refuge (south of Tyumen Region). All released birds left for migration. In October of 2004, 4 Siberian Cranes (two young and two one-year old birds) were released in Astrakhan NR. In June 2005 four Siberian Crane eggs produced at OCBC were placed into two nests of Eurasian Cranes in Kunovat Wildlife Refuge (West Siberia). 	<p>KZ: Take part in Agreement on the "Flight of Hope" Project and participate in this project.</p> <p>RU: Continue to implement reintroduction programme, including "Flight of Hope" Project.</p>	2 2
	c) Monitor Siberian Cranes released into the wild	ICF	All Range States-WP	<p>ICF/CMS: 1) PTT provided for possible deployment in West Siberia or Iran.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wild birds not observed or captured in West Siberia. One PTT placed on released female in Iran in 2004. Data received until the migrating bird reached Dagestan where signal continued for a while before failing. Attempts made to retrieve PTT or carcass unsuccessful. Important contacts developed with Dagestan colleagues and a potentially important wetland was identified. PTT placed on released female in Iran in February 2007. Signal quality poor shortly after release. <p>2) ICF maintains programmes and accounts with ARGOS.</p>	<p>ICF: 1) Order and provide high quality PTTs as funding allows.</p> <p>2) Continue to maintain programmes and accounts with ARGOS</p> <p>3) Distribute data immediately by email.</p>	2

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
3.1. Promote recovery of the Siberian Crane populations	c) Monitor Siberian Cranes released into the wild	RU-OCBC		RU-OCBC: 1) One Siberian Crane released in 2004 in Belozersky Wildlife Refuge was caught in Bashkiria (South Ural Region) in November 2004 and returned to OCBC. 2) One Siberian Crane was brought in to Chelyabinsk Zoo (South Ural) in 2003. Later this bird was returned to OCBC. Probably this crane was released in 2003 in Kunovat Wildlife Refuge.	All Range States-WP: Attempt to ground truth locations of Siberian Cranes provided by PTTs. KZ, RU: Provide satellite tracking along Siberian Crane migration routes if PTT are available for released birds.	2
		All Range States-WP	ICF			2
	d) Conduct genetic studies to manage the genetic diversity of wild and captive populations	RU-OCBC	Institute of Genetic, Moscow Zoo	RU-OCBC: Samples of 5 Siberian Cranes from OCBC were sent to Institute for Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone (IBPC) in Yakutia for genetics research.	RU-OCBC, CBCC: Collaborate in genetic studies of captive population, if funds are available.	3
3.2. Develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes based on those used by Eurasian Cranes	a) Identify and survey relatively safe habitats of the Eurasian Crane population - one that frequents ecologically suitable areas on the breeding grounds, along the migration route and on the wintering grounds - into which Siberian cranes could be (re)introduced	RU			RU: Study Eurasian Cranes breeding grounds identified if funds are available and Eurasian Cranes are marked with PTTs in India.	3

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
3.2. Develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes based on those used by Eurasian Cranes	b) Determine migration routes and wintering sites of various populations of the Eurasian Crane within the current and former range of the Siberian Crane populations through satellite or radio tracking, questionnaires, surveys, and other methods	AZ IR, RU KZ RU			<p>AZ: Continue surveys and working with questionnaires.</p> <p>IR, RU: Explore feasibility/ desirability of work on Eurasian Crane inter-sessionally (consider this work if resources are available).</p> <p>KZ: Support monitoring groups.</p> <p>RU: Continue to study migration routes of Eurasian Cranes if PTTs and funds are available.</p>	3 3 3 3
	c) Develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes using migration routes of Eurasian Cranes	RU			RU: Develop proposals on protection of key stopover sites on the migration route of Eurasian Cranes.	3

Objective IV: Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane						
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane	a) Improve institutional and the physical protection and monitoring of the Siberian Crane sites	AZ	DoE, UNEP/GEF UNEP/GEF SCWP	<p>IR: 1) Non-shooting Area (NSA) established around the four damgahs of FDK, Esbaran, and Sorkh Rud.</p> <p>2) Expansion of the Kiashar Ramsar site to the whole Bujagh National Park included in the UNEP/GEF SCWP 2007. Activities currently under survey and review by DoE provincial office. Some of the rice fields inside the national park have been purchased by DoE and the other are under negotiation with the locals. New guard station on the south west of the national park is under construction being funded by the UNEP/GEF SCWP and co-financed by DoE.</p>	<p>AZ: Extend territory of Kyzyl-Agach NR to cover all registered Siberian Crane sites.</p>	1
		IR			<p>IR: 1) Improve conservation status of FDK NSA, including establishment of buffer zone for NSA.</p> <p>2) Extend Kiashahr Ramsar site to the whole of Bujagh National Park.</p>	1
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	<p>KZ: 1) Documents prepared for Zharsor-Urkash Wildlife Refuge agreed, solicitation letter to the Government of RK on establishment of wildlife refuge signed by regional akimat (region authorities). Establishment of Zharsor-Urkash Wildlife Refuge included in the state programme on development of Especially Protected Natural Territories for 2007-2009. Work on Kulykol included in the UNEP/GEF SCWP workplan for 2007-2008.</p> <p>2) All borders of Naurzum NR agreed, responsible agency developed a land map project, and demarcation of borders on land was completed. Maps of ecosystems, soils and vegetation for the Naurzum NR and a map of ecosystems for Zharsor-Urkash prepared. Nomination documents for Ramsar List for Naurzum and Zharsor-Urkash completed.</p>	<p>KZ: 1) Prepare proposals on establishment of protected territories at Kulykol and Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura sites.</p> <p>2) Establish Zharsor-Urkash Wildlife Refuge, demarcate the borders, install signboards and employ and train a staff of rangers.</p> <p>3) Organise a protected area at Ural River Delta.</p> <p>4) Prepare nomination documents for inclusion of Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura, and Sarykopa in the Ramsar List.</p>	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority	
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane	a) Improve institutional and the physical protection and monitoring of the Siberian Crane sites	RU	UNEP/GEF SCWP	RU: Due to loss of administrative and financial support for federal wildlife refuges under the Ministry of Agriculture, inadequate support is being provided for Siberian Cranes at the Kunovat and Uvat breeding areas. Under the UNEP/GEF SCWP a regional level Nature Park (300,000 ha) is proposed around the Kunovat Federal Wildlife Refuge situation and waiting official designation.	RU: Provide a letter to the MNR of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Agriculture with request to hasten resolution of the federal wildlife refuge problem. Provide support of the UNEP/GEF SCWP and other international conservation projects.	1	
	b) Secure protection through collaboration with local communities and/or legal measures for inadequately protected or newly identified areas of importance for the Siberian Crane	AZ	NGOs	UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: 1) Through the UNEP/GEF SCWP, site management committees were established at the local level involving local stakeholders in discussions and decision makings under the project. 2) The head of the Iran Wildlife Expert Groups was invited to become a member of the National Project Advisory Group (NPAG) and to participate in related meetings. To this date a specific proposal has not been received for establishment of local hunting NGO. 3) Local damgah owners are cooperating with DoE under a partnership programme in order to secure the safety of the area. 4) Four trappers associations were established under the UNEP/GEF SCWP (one for each damgah); through these association relations with the trappers has improved; eight local guards have been employed through the project and they are currently being supported by DoE.	AZ: Develop cooperation with local community and NGO for identification of new sites important for the Siberian Crane.	1
		IR				IR: 1) Strengthen current Site Management Committees and establish a local hunting NGO through the Site Management Committee. 2) Develop co-management agreements for FDK and Bujagh National Park.	1
	KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	KZ: 1) Naurzum and Zharsor-Urkash Site Management Committee has been organised. 2) Every year Naurzum NR organises a volunteer fire brigade upon agreement with the akimat (local authority).	KZ: 1) Sign basin agreement with main stakeholders and ranger to improve water regime of Naurzum Lake System. 2) Continue work with local people; provide training strategy and programme for public awareness and education, involve local stakeholders in the process for protection of territories.	1		

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority	
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane					RU: Seek support of regional administrations to speed up the solution of the problem with federal wildlife refuges.	1	
	c) Develop management plans for Siberian Crane sites	AZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: Management plan is currently under development for FDK. The completed plan will be reviewed, discussed and approved by the site management committee. National consultant under the UNEP/GEF SCWP established the basis for the development of a co-management agreement. DOE is preparing a comprehensive management plan for Bujagh NP.	AZ: 1) Prepare management plan for Kyzyl-Aghach NR.	2	
		IR			IR: Finalize management plans and start implementation for FDK and Bujagh NP through a participatory process involving key stakeholders at the site; the plan should be approved by the Site Management Committees.	1	
		KZ			KZ: The first draft management plan of the Naurzum NR has been prepared. Monitoring of waterbirds and water level of the lakes has been made.	KZ: 1) Complete management plan for Naurzum NR. 2) Include measures important for Siberian cranes and other waterbirds in draft management plan. Approve management plans. 3) Prepare management plan of Zharsor-Urkash Wildlife Refuge and integrate with the management plan of the Naurzum NR, including research needed. Prepare ecotourism development plan for the UNEP/GEF SCWP sites.	1
		RU			RU: National guidelines on management planning for wetland protected areas were produced with support from the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	RU: Complete management plans for the UNEP/GEF SCWP sites.	1
d) Conduct applied research on the Siberian Crane sites in support of site management	AZ	AOS		AZ: Conduct necessary research for Shirvan National Park and Kyzyl-Aghach NR in cooperation with Academy of Science.	3		

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority	
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane	d) Conduct applied research on the Siberian Crane sites in support of site management	IR	DoE, UNEP/GEF SCWP	<p>IR: 1) DoE is currently supporting student projects for protected areas in Iran; a trapping study (phase one) was developed under a national consultancy for the UNEP/GEF SCWP, the second phase of this study to review socio-economic conditions will be conducted in 2007-08.</p> <p>2) Development of a monitoring plan for FDK is included in the UNEP/GEF SCWP. In addition DoE and the UNEP/GEF SCWP support proposals on ecological studies for the Siberian Crane habitat.</p>	IR: Sign agreements with national, provincial and local universities to conduct research and participate in management of project sites.	1	
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP		KZ: <i>Zharsor-Urkash/Kulykol/Tontegir-Zhansura:</i> Conduct studies, analysis of the current situation and prepare proposals, of financial sources are attracted under the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	2	
		RU			RU: Study current situation at Agrakhansky Wildlife Refuge, Dagestan.	2	
	e) Monitor and assess the environmental impacts of human development on habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane, including possible impacts of the climate change	AZ, IR, KZ		<p>UNEP/GEF SCWP</p> <p>UNEP/GEF SCWP</p>	<p>IR: 1) A national consultant has been contracted under the UNEP/GEF SCWP to assess the grazing condition at Bujagh National Park and proposed a grazing plan.</p> <p>KZ: 1) Studies on biodiversity, socio-economic, and grazing assessments are partially completed at Zharsor-Urkash site.</p> <p>2) Information on the socio-economic situation in the catchment basins collected. Full investigation of dams, water reservoirs and the condition of the riverbed conducted. Water balance of Naurzum Lakes defined. Water consumption needs of the population living in the catchments area calculated, and in some cases, alternative sources of water</p>	AZ, IR, KZ: Monitor and survey the impacts of climate change on crane habitats, if resources are available.	2
		IR				IR: Study the impact of using agro-chemicals in the Siberian Crane habitats. Continue cooperation with UNDP small-grant projects.	2
		KZ				KZ: 1) Plan studies on biodiversity, socio-economic, and grazing assessments at Ku-lykol and Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura sites within the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	2
				2) Prepare maps of ecosystems under the UNEP/GEF SCWP.			
				3) Prepare analytical review of results of annual monitoring.			

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane	e) Monitor and assess the environmental impacts of human development on habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane, including possible impacts of the climate change	RU		supply have been defined. Water level of lakes monitored. Recommendations for water management planning and justification for removal of unnecessary dams and construction of water release facilities at remaining dams prepared. Preliminary agreements with water users made and preparation of a basin agreement (within the framework of Naurzum Lakes Basin) through the basin council established at Tobol-Turgay Basin Water-Economic Department started.	RU: Assess impact of oil and gas developments in KARB and KRB.	1
	f) Provide training and capacity building for sites of importance for Siberian Cranes	AZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: 1) Funding provided through the UNEP/GEF SCWP is an incentive for the associations to expand their trust fund and invest in small scale businesses. 2) Different types of training including community liaison, management planning and conservation legislation were provided to the local guards. 3) The number of local guards at FDK has increased to 8, supported by the UNEP/GEF SCWP and co-financed through DoE. 4) A new DoE office has been established (in Babolsar) for direct management of FDK NSA.	AZ: Provide training for identification of Siberian Crane and waterbirds and monitoring of their habitats with support of Academy of Science and other national and foreign specialists, NR staff and local communities.	3
		IR			IR: 1) Provide capacity building for the trappers associations through required trainings and awareness raising activities. 2) Provide training on waterbird monitoring, implementation of management plan, etc. 3) Implement training strategy developed under the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	1
	KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP, Regional Hunting and Fishing Society	KZ: 1) Development of studies is restrained by lack of specialists and financing. A project on organisation of a field station for biological studies at Naurzum NR is being implemented with the purpose of facilitating research, attracting foreign specialists and cooperation.	KZ: Organise series of training courses on ecological education and tourism for nature reserve staff and regional societies of hunters and fishermen; provide ecological tours, purchase equipment, prepare education posters and publications within the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	1	

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
4. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane	f) Provide training and capacity building for sites of importance for Siberian Cranes	KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP, Regional Hunting and Fishing Society	<p>2) Financing of the Naurzum NR from the national budget has increased more than three times since 2003. 24 staff inspectors were employed in 2006 and new vehicles and equipment acquired. Republic of Kazakhstan laws do not allow financing of regional organisations from the federal budget.</p> <p>3) <i>Zharsor/Urkash</i>: The Regional Hunting and Fishing Society hired two inspectors in Druzhba Village, near Zharsor-Urkash Site. Preparation of the plan on ecotourism development was included into the workplan for the UNEP/GEF SCWP (2007-2008). Organisation of studies is limited by lack of ornithological experts.</p> <p>4) A series of workshops and trainings has been conducted for different target groups at Naurzum and Zharsor-Urkash project sites. Materials have been prepared and workshops for teachers have been conducted in Kostanay City.</p>		
		RU	UNEP/GEF SCWP		RU: Extend training and capacity building experience from the UNEP/GEF SCWP to Agrakhansky Wildlife Refuge.	2
	g) Manage buffer zones and external threats for protected areas critical for the Siberian Crane	IR				IR: Follow up the activity through the participatory management and co-management agreements for FDK and Bujagh National Park.
		KZ		KZ: Definition of protection zone and demarcation of its borders fully completed; a map with a list of users and indication of sites located in the protection zone prepared for Naurzum.	KZ: 1) Work with local community to improve management of buffer zone. 2) Enhance management of buffer zones and external threats for protected areas critical for the Siberian Crane.	2
		RU	UNEP/GEF SCWP		RU: Work to increase buffer zone for Belozersky Wildlife Refuge.	2

Objective V: Increase public awareness and ecological education								
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority		
5.1. Share information on Siberian Crane conservation efforts	a) Publicize information on the Siberian Crane conservation efforts in mass media, public and scientific magazines	ICF	All Range States-WP	<p>ICF: 1) Original Betacam copies available at ICF. Copies sent to some countries (i.e., Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan) were lost – probably due to changes in managers in these countries. In 2007, ICF made DVD of English language version to share with countries.</p> <p>2) Archives now stored in Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator (SCFC) office in Moscow. Historic materials are at ICF.</p>	<p>ICF: 1) Make DVD copies in Russian language. Continue to provide DVD or Betacam copies in English or Russian languages on request. Discuss with countries at MoU6 the need/plan to make an updated film.</p> <p>2) Work with SCFC for plan to improve archive and accessibility of footage by newly hired UNEP/GEF SCWP Communications Coordinators.</p>	2		
		All Range States-WP	ICF, SCFC			<p>All Range States-WP: 1) Produce a specific video for western flyway in cooperation with ICF.</p> <p>2) Publicize information in CMS electronic bulletin, ICF Bugle, SCF News and other newsletters and scientific journals and books.</p>	2	
		AZ	RU, ICF			<p>AZ: 1) Provide information to mass media about sightings of the Siberian Crane during migration.</p> <p>2) Broadcast Russian video on national TV.</p>	2	
		IR	UNEP/GEF SCWP			<p>IR: Movie about Siberian Crane along the western flyway produced by Mani Mirsadeghi broadcast several times by national TV,</p>	<p>IR: 1) Provide copy of Mirsadeghi movie to ICF.</p> <p>2) Follow up on implementation of awareness raising strategy (action plan developed under the UNEP/GEF SCWP).</p>	2
		KZ				<p>KZ: 1) Produce three films (Naurzum Nature Reserve, Siberian Crane conservation efforts, Crane Day Celebration).</p> <p>2) Spread this activity to western parts of Kazakhstan.</p>	2	

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
5.1. Share information on Siberian Crane conservation efforts	a) Publicize information on the Siberian Crane conservation efforts in mass media, public and scientific magazines	RU	ICF	<p>RU: 1) ICF and CMS Siberian Crane video in Russian language broadcast by Russian central TV channel twice since 1998. The video was shown by West Siberian regional TV channels several times since 1998.</p> <p>2) Several videos (“The White Crane from Legend”, “The Flight of Hope”, “Siberian Crane is a Symbol of Hope”) and video clips were produced by both SF and West Siberia TV Companies (GTRK “YAMAL” and “Tyumen-Region”). These videos were broadcast by West Siberia regional TV channels twice per year before spring and autumn migration.</p> <p>3) Film produced by E. Nazarov “Cross-fostered Parents” was transformed to digital format.</p> <p>4) All films were shown every year by regional TV channels.</p> <p>5) Russian and Iranian films and video clips were shown during Siberian Crane Festival in Salekhard 2005. Films exchanged between Russian and Iranian colleagues with goal to use these films in education programmes.</p> <p>6) Professionals from Russian Ural Film Company “Strana” worked in summer 2006 with “Flight of Hope” Project to make film about Siberian Cranes and people involved in the Siberian Crane conservation and restoration. It will be full-length film (1 hour length). The film is in cutting process now. The premiere will be in summer 2007.</p> <p>7) “Flight of Hope” Project was widely covered by central and regional TV channels.</p>	<p>RU: 1) Continue publicizing information about Siberian Cranes and related activities.</p> <p>2) Use “Flight of Hope” Project for education along the flyway.</p>	1
	b) Develop, produce and share information and education materials for public awareness and to support education and information programmes	ICF, SCFC	All Range States-WP	<p>ICF: 1) SCFC coordinated distribution of Bateman poster. All Range States received local language versions of the poster. Mongolian posters are finished. No requests received for reprinting.</p> <p>2) Stickers of Siberian Cranes with design by Sergei Pogonin were produced and distributed in English, Russian, Yakutian, Farsi and Chinese languages.</p>	<p>ICF: 1) Continue to provide the range states with awareness materials especially for the Crane Celebrations.</p> <p>2) Provide new layouts of posters.</p> <p>3) Provide new layouts of stickers to Range States.</p> <p>4) Provide layout of the Siberian Crane booklet and materials in Iran and other</p>	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
5.1. Share information on Siberian Crane conservation efforts	b) Develop, produce and share information and education materials for public awareness and to support education and information programmes	KZ	ICF, SCFC, UNEP/GEF SCWP	<p>KZ: 1) Siberian Crane poster by Robert Bateman was distributed to schools and organisations related to nature protection, correspondents providing real information on Siberian Cranes sightings and crane concentrations, and for the winners of competitions.</p> <p>2) Education and awareness materials, including booklets in Kazakh and Russian languages, prepared under the UNEP/GEF SCWP and disseminated in Kostanay Region, mainly at the project sites</p> <p>3) Booklets with general information on the Siberian Crane and the UNEP/GEF SCWP prepared in the Kazakh and Russian languages.</p> <p>4) Stickers on Siberian Crane provided by ICF were shared widely.</p> <p>5) Booklet "101 Questions About Cranes" by Vladimir Flint in Russian was distributed widely.</p>	<p>KZ: 1) Produce and distribute colorful posters, caps, sports-shirts with project logo and pictures of competition winners and other crane depictions.</p> <p>2) Continue developing materials and distributing them, when possible, to other regions along the Siberian Crane flyway. Search for additional funding for publishing calendars, booklets and other items on cranes.</p> <p>3) Produce and disseminate a new booklet on the Siberian Crane in Kazakhstan, the problems of its protection, and role of Kazakhstan in international efforts on its recovery.</p> <p>4) Prepare stickers of the project sites as key territories for both protection of Siberian Cranes and other globally endangered waterbird species.</p> <p>5) Update booklet for three crane species, "101 Questions About Cranes" translate in Kazakh and distribute booklet by Vladimir Flint.</p>	1
		RU	SF, SCFC	<p>RU: 1) Distribution of Siberian Crane poster by Robert Bateman continues. In 2004-2007 more than ¾ of Russian circulation were distributed to representatives and heads of national and regional governmental agencies, high schools and schools, and Hunting and Fishing Departments.</p> <p>2) Three booklets about "Flight of Hope" Project were produced by All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection (ARRINP) and SF produced showing the results and problems of Siberian Crane Conservation activity. Booklet about the UNEP/GEF SCWP produced.</p>	<p>RU: 1) Continue to distribute Siberian Crane poster by Robert Bateman.</p> <p>2) Prepare and distribute booklets on Siberian Cranes, methodical recommendation for students and teacher.</p> <p>3) Republish booklet "101 Question About Cranes" by Flint and distribute it.</p>	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
5.2. Community involvement	a) Develop education and information programmes and public events for target groups of local people (especially hunters) on protection of the Siberian Crane and its habitats	CWGE, ICF, SCFC	All Range States-WP	<p>CWGE, ICF, SCFC: 1) Crane Celebration initiated by the Crane Working Group of Eurasia (CWGE) in 2002 became a traditional event in 8 countries, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Iran. Number of people involved increasing annually. Information on Crane Celebrations published in national and local newspapers and broadcast on national TV. The CWGE with support by CMS MoU, ICF and UNEP/GEF SCWP provided countries with information and education materials (booklets, posters, buttons, stickers, booklet on "Materials for Crane Day", bookmarks, calendars, etc.). Some materials translated into Farsi, Pashtu, Dari, Turkmen, Azerbaijan and Uzbek languages.</p> <p>2) In the framework of Crane Celebration in 2005 the Asian Children's' Art Exchange Exhibition was held with participation of children from Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. More than a thousand art works were submitted to the CWGE, where they were judged by a competent jury. Winner's paintings were exhibited in ICF, Moscow Zoo, Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, as well as in countries. Winners received special prizes. All participants received buttons and calendars.</p>	<p>CWGE, ICF, SCFC: Provide guidance on coordination and activities for Crane Celebration. Continue to provide model materials to be adapted into Range States languages.</p>	2
		All Range States-WP	SCFC, CWGE		<p>All Range States-WP: Organise and expand Crane Celebration.</p>	2
		IR	SCFC, UNEP/GEF SCWP, CWGE	<p>IR: 1) Starting in 2006, Crane Celebration was organised annually at FDK. Different education and awareness materials such as posters, pins, brochures, etc. were distributed during this event</p> <p>2) To date, the UNEP/GEF SCWP in Iran has published different types of educational/awareness materials including posters, brochures, booklets, stickers, etc. These materials were distributed at national,</p>	<p>IR: 1) Organise Crane Celebration event at FDK and World Migratory Bird Day Celebration at Bujagh NP.</p> <p>2) Follow implementation of awareness raising strategy (action plan developed under the UNEP/GEF SCWP).</p> <p>3) Involve NGOs in the implementation of the public awareness strategy.</p>	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
5.2. Community involvement	a) Develop education and information programmes and public events for target groups of local people (especially hunters) on protection of the Siberian Crane and its habitats	KZ	SCFC, CWGE	<p>provincial and local levels during different events. The booklet on eco-agriculture guidelines distributed among key stakeholders at site.</p> <p>3) Two strategies (including awareness raising and education) were developed under the UNEP/GEF SCWP.</p> <p>4) Local community and especially local guards are participating in waterbird monitoring and recording their sightings of the Siberian Crane. The release programme at FDK is conducted in close cooperation with the local trappers.</p> <p>KZ: 1) Geographical scope of Crane Celebration expanded to three more areas of project sites in Kostanay Region. It has become a tradition at schools of Naurzum district, Druzhba and Kulikol Villages of Kamystin District, the pedagogical institute and some other schools in Kostanay City. In 2006 Siberian Crane Festival celebrated in Karamendy Village with support of the UNEP/GEF SCWP. Activities are widely highlighted in regional publications and TV.</p> <p>2) Workshops and training for different target groups held in Kostanay City, Naurzum district and Druzhba and Taldykolk villages of Kamystin District.</p> <p>3) Special materials prepared for training for hunters.</p>	<p>KZ: 1) Distribute information programmes produced.</p> <p>2) Continue to organise Crane Celebration, expanding it to the territory of Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura site and Atyrau Region (areas adjoining Ural delta). As possible, cover other areas on the flyway of Siberian Cranes.</p>	1
		RU	SCFC, CWGE	<p>RU: 1) Education activities continued and developed. In 2004-2007 Crane Celebrations within "Flight of Hope" Project and the UNEP/GEF SCWP regularly held in 6-8 places of YNAR and Tyumen Region along Siberian Crane Flyway.</p> <p>2) Meetings with administrations on different levels, lectures about Siberian Crane conservation measures under CMS and other projects provided for teachers, schoolchildren and local people, including hunters and</p>	<p>RU: 1) Provide education activity in Dagestan, especially in Agrakhansky Wildlife Refuge and Dagestansky NR.</p> <p>2) Continue the programme "Siberian Crane in a Suitcase".</p> <p>3) Organise and expand Crane Celebration.</p>	2

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
5.2. Community involvement	a) Develop education and information programmes and public events for target groups of local people (especially hunters) on protection of the Siberian Crane and its habitats			fishers. "Siberian Crane in Suitcase" education materials were developed and produced (among them Siberian Crane model in life-size).		
	b) Establish learning/information center	IR KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: Guard station partially constructed located in the Oja Kaleh forest patch of FDK NSA for education goals. To this stage, the building has been constructed through the UNEP/GEF SCWP funding and DoE co-financing.	IR: Complete the guard station building in Oja Kaleh under the UNEP/GEF SCWP and DoE if funds are available. Construct a visitor center next to the guard station. KZ: Develop information center in Karamendy Village near Naurzum.	1 1
5.3. Sustainable livelihood opportunities	a) Initiate and facilitate sustainable livelihood projects for local communities	IR	DoE, UNEP/GEF SCWP	IR: FDK: 8 local guards employed through the UNEP/GEF SCWP and they are currently being supported by DoE. To promote employment opportunities the guard station is being constructed by local labor. Bujagh: a participatory fishing programme is being conducted in cooperation with the fisheries department to promote sustainable alternative livelihood and conservation of sturgeon; the UNEP/GEF SCWP is supporting a student project on sustainable recreational design of Bujagh National Park for tourism development.	IR: 1) Proposed that local guards operate the guard station at FDK after completion. New local guards (from Kiashahr) should be employed at Bujagh NP. 2) Support ecotourism development projects at FDK and Bujagh NP 3) Extend the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) work to the whole FDK NSA under the UNEP/GEF SCWP. 4) Support micro-credit scheme operated through Trappers Association trust funds at FDK to facilitate sustainable livelihood projects under UNEP/GEF SCWP.	1
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP		KZ: Prepare eco-tourism strategy under the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	1

Objective VI: Enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange						
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.1. Improve national and international cooperation and information exchange	a) Designate a national lead agency /focal points responsible for coordinating the Siberian Crane conservation and management policy	SCFC	All Range States-WP		SCFC: Maintain and update focal point list regularly.	1
		All Range States-WP	CMS Secretariat		All Range States-WP: 1) Identify technical and administrative focal points. 2) Inform CMS Secretariat of any changes on responsibilities.	1
		KZ	CMS Secretariat	KZ: Forest and Hunting Committee (FHC) is responsible for Memorandum implementation. Individuals responsible for contact with UNEP/CMS Secretariat identified.	KZ: FHC to appoint individuals as administrative and technical focal points.	1
	b) Collaborate and conduct international research and monitoring	CMS		CMS: The Siberian Crane MoU is often cited as an example of how a flagship species is being used by CMS and the conservation community to conserve not only the species but other waterbirds as well. All Range States-WP: 1) Representatives of Range State participated in related international conferences and workshops. 2) Representatives of Range State participated in CWGE activity.	CMS: Call attention to the importance of conserving Siberian Cranes and their habitats over their entire range, at relevant international conferences.	1
		All Range States-WP			CWGE	All Range States-WP: 1) Establish a network for monitoring migrating cranes species through collaboration including WCASN sites and other important sites. 2) Attend the Scientific Conference "Cranes of Palearctic: Biology and Conservation" of the CWGE in Rostov NR in October 2007. 3) Participate in CWGE activities.
		AZ, IR			AZ, IR: Exchange experts between Siberian Crane sites in Azerbaijan and Iran.	2
		IR, RU, OCBC	ICF		IR, RU: Continue to cooperate on release of captive-bred Siberian Cranes into the wild.	1
		KZ, RU	SF, SCWP		KZ, RU: 1) Cooperate in "Flight of Hope" project. 2) Realize cooperation in framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP. 3) Participate in other international projects.	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority		
6.1. Improve national and international cooperation and information exchange	c) Provide central coordination of information exchange through SCFC on the Siberian Crane and its sites	ICF	SCFC	ICF: Agreement reached at Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of the UNEP/GEF SCWP that data will be the property of the range states under the MoU and will be shared openly among participants.	SCFC: Continue to collect and share information. Update SCFC website and establish Russian version of the website. Continue to update Siberian Crane database.	1		
		SCFC	ICF, CMS	SCFC: Information on Siberian Crane sightings at breeding, resting and wintering areas along the flyways was collected and distributed immediately among interested people and agencies. This information was distributed electronically via the SCF News and then as a hard copy through the CWGE Newsletter. Information was also uploaded to the SCFC website, but during the last year the website was not updated. Information on Siberian Crane sightings were entered into the Siberian Crane database.				
		All Range States-WP	SCFC	All Range States-WP: Information for publication in electronic SCF News, the CWGE Newsletter and the CWGE collection of papers was provided.			All Range States-WP: Provide data to the SCFC on Siberian Crane sightings and on activity on MoU implementation for SCF News development.	1
		KZ	SCFC	KZ: Information on sightings of Siberian Cranes and implementation of activities in the framework of Crane Celebration has been regularly submitted.			KZ: Continue to send information on the Siberian Crane sightings and conservation activity to the SCFC.	1
		RU	SCFC	RU: Review of records as a result of questionnaire in 2004-2007 provided to the SCFC.			RU: Continue to send information on the Siberian Crane sightings and conservation activity to the SCFC.	1
	d) Submit an annual report on implementation of the Siberian Crane MoU to the UNEP/CMS Secretariat	CMS, ICF	All Range States-WP	CMS, ICF: 1) The publication No. 10 "Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane – Third Edition." UNEP/CMS ed. 2005, included CMS MoU5 meeting report, conservation plans for three populations, and Siberian Crane references was compiled, revised, translated into Russian, printed and distributed among Range States. 2) New template of Conservation plan for all three populations prepared and presented at the Sixth Range State meeting for discussion and approve.	CMS, ICF: 1) Compile and distribute CMS MoU6 meeting report, including revised Conservation Plans for three populations with limited number of copies. 2) Send reminder to countries with request to update electronic database. 3) Hire specialist to create electronic reporting database. Upload report database to CMS website. Upload country reports there with request of additional information from countries.	1		

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.1. Improve national and international cooperation and information exchange	d) Submit an annual report on implementation of the Siberian Crane MoU to the UNEP/CMS Secretariat	CMS, ICF	All Range States-WP	3) Reminder for country report was shared just before CMS MoU6 meeting. 4) National report template was prepared, discussed at CMS MoU6 meeting and approved by Range States.	All Range States-WP: 1) Update report annually. 2) Use the revised report template until further notice.	1
		All Range States-WP	CMS, ICF, SCFC	All Range States-WP: National reports were submitted before MoU6 meeting. However a process for allowing annual review, future planning, and exchange of information is required. An outcome of this annual review can be an annual report which will feed into the proposed online reporting.		
	e) Host and attend regular meetings of the Siberian Crane Range States	CMS, ICF	WI, CBCC	CMS, ICF: 1) Organised in cooperation with Kazakhstan the Sixth Range State Meeting in Almaty in May 2007. Participation of experts from Ranges State was supported by ICF through the UNEP/GEF SCWP and other sources. 2) WI and Cracid&Crane Breeding and Conservation Center (CBCC) signed the MoU at MoU6.	CMS, ICF: 1) Work with host country of MoU7 to ensure that the meeting is financially secure 2) Liaise with other potential co-operating organisations as appropriate that signal their interest to sign the MoU. 3) BirdLife International should be considered re their new Species Champions campaign for Critically Endangered species.	1
		All Range States-WP	CMS, ICF	All Range States-WP: Attended CMS MoU6 Range States meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-19 May 2007.	All Range States-WP: Host and attend MoU meetings.	1
		KZ	CMS, ICF	KZ: Organised CMS MoU6 Range States meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-19 May 2007 in cooperation with ICF and CMS.	KZ: Participate in regular Range State CMS MoU meetings.	1
6.2. Development of the Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other waterbirds	a) Nominate additional sites for the WCASN	CMS, ICF	All Range States-WP, WI	CMS, ICF: WCASN meeting in New Delhi in June 2005 organised in cooperation with the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests. CMS also finalized the proceedings from the New Delhi meeting and was involved with the final proposal and initial request for site nominations in early 2007.	CMS, ICF: 1) Continue to promote the development of the WCASN to ensure that all eligible countries nominate at least one site. 2) Hire staff to compile and get additional information from Range States to prepare WCASN part as an appendix to Conservation Plan. 3) Design and issue site certificates and produce guidance for site designation	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.2. Development of the Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other waterbirds	a) Nominate additional sites for the WCASN	CMS, ICF	All Range States-WP, WI		ceremonies with assistance from experts with experience of similar schemes. 4) Finalize and circulate on CMS letterhead Terms of Reference for WCASN Committee and Site Review Working Group. 5) Seek funding for training activities on WCASN in collaboration with ICF and other MoU cooperating organisations.	
		All Range States-WP	CMS, ICF, WI	All Range States-WP: Participated at the WCASN meeting in New Delhi in June 2005.	All Range States-WP: Survey for additional sites to be considered for inclusion in WCASN. Submit documentation to CMS for nomination of any appropriate sites.	1
		AZ, IR, RU		AZ, IR, RU: Representatives were elected to Site Review Working Group which made recommendations on nominated sites for WCASN Committee at MoU6 meeting in Kazakhstan in May of 2007.	RU, IN, KZ, PK, ICF and WI: These countries were elected on to the Site Network Review Working Group at the Sixth Range State meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in May 2007.	1
		AZ			AZ: Nominate Apsheron and Samukh sites.	1
		IR		IR: A step has been taken on this activity by nominating Bujagh NP and FDK for inclusion in the WCASN.	IR: Nominate Ardebil site depending on confirmation of the Siberian Crane sightings.	1
		KZ		KZ: Nomination sheets for 5 sites (Naurzum, Zharsor-Urkash, Kulikol-Taldykol, Ural River Delta and Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura) prepared and submitted. Letter of nomination submitted for all sites.	KZ: 1) Prepare nomination sheets for three areas (Sarykopa, Tengiz-Kurgaldzhino and Lower Turgay River). 2) Continue identification of new sites important for protection of Siberian Cranes and other crane species.	1
		RU		RU: Four sites were suggested for nomination: KRB, KARB, Belozersky and Agrakhansky Federal Wildlife Refuges in meeting in Delhi, June 2005.	RU: Complete nomination process for proposed sites.	1
	b) Coordinate with Central Asian Flyway initiative on site network development	All Range States-WP		All Range States-WP: Not applicable.	All Range States-WP: Not applicable.	

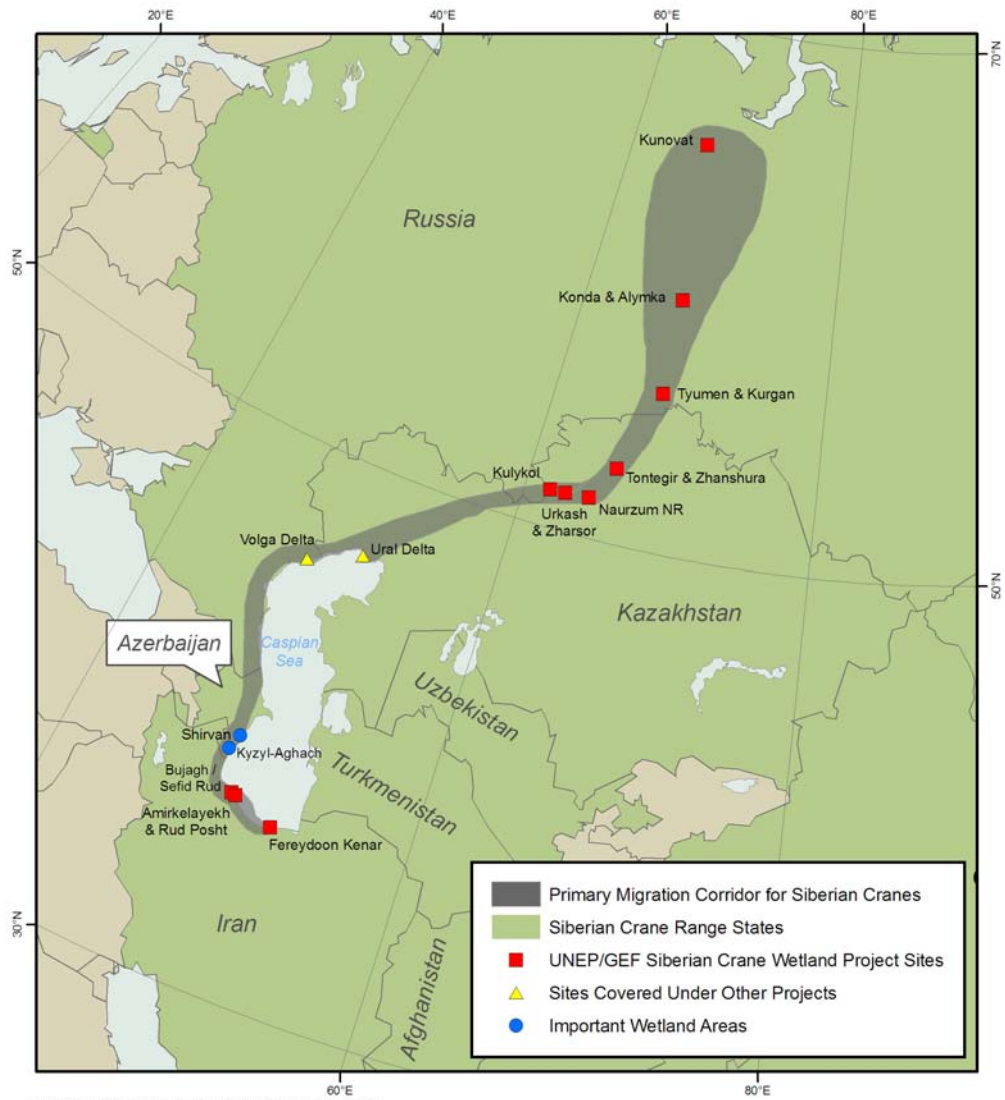
Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.3. Support Siberian Crane conservation activities through the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership	Collaborate with the North-East Asia Crane Working Group of the East Asia-Australasia Flyway Partnership (EAAP) to integrate Siberian Crane conservation with flyway level activities for migratory waterbirds in the annual Partnership workplans	All Range States-WP		All Range States-WP: Not applicable.	All Range States-WP: Not applicable.	
6.4. Capacity building	a) Determine country's needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen conservation measures for the Siberian Crane and its habitats	AZ IR KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP UNEP/GEF SCWP		AZ: 1) Increase public awareness and knowledge level among local community. 2) Provide field equipment to nature reserve staff. IR: Improve site management capacity on community participation and implementation of management plans. KZ: 1) Realize strategy on management capacity and education within the UNEP/GEF SCWP. 2) Purchase equipment for Resource Information Center in Karamendy Village.	1 1 1
	b) Provide training to support conservation of the Siberian Crane and its habitats	ICF	SCFC, UNEP/GEF SCWP	ICF: Regional training workshop on data management was held in September 2004 in Kostanay City, and the regional training workshop on site management planning and other issues in China in March 2007, both in the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP implementation. The first training workshop was organised in cooperation with NGO "Naurzum" in Kazakhstan; the second in cooperation with Jiangxi Wildlife Management Bureau.	ICF: Participate in related international workshops and conferences. Facilitate training conducted in UNEP/GEF SCWP countries.	2

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.4. Capacity building	b) Provide training to support conservation of the Siberian Crane and its habitats	CBCC	RU-OCBC	CBCC: 1) Financial support was provided for OCBC including reconstruction of winter facility. 2) In 2005 and 2006, supported one-month training of two OCBC aviculturists (Kirill Postelnykh and Elina Antonyuk) in CBCC. 3) Support was provided for OCBC staff for participation at MoU6 meeting in Kazakhstan.	CBCC: Continue to fund OCBC in future. Plan extra funds for OCBC facility reconstruction.	1
		All Range States-WP:		All Range States-WP: Representatives from these countries took part at the regional training workshops on data management in Kazakhstan in September of 2004 and on site management planning and other issues in China in March 2007.	All Range States-WP: Provide training for staff under the UNEP/GEF SCWP and WCASN sites.	2
		AZ			AZ: Provide training for NR staff, involving foreign specialists if funds are available.	2
		IR	UNEP/GEF SCWP		IR: Implement training needs assessment developed under the UNEP/GEF SCWP.	2
		KZ	UNEP/GEF SCWP	KZ: Kazakh representatives organised the regional training workshop on data management held in September 2004 in Kostanay City.	KZ: 1) Organise international training on ecosystem and monitoring indicators in the framework of the UNEP/GEF SCWP. 2) Evaluate training programme efficacy.	2
6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation	a) Develop comprehensive project proposal(s) to submit to appropriate agencies for possible funding	CMS	ICF, All Range States-WP	CMS: CMS Secretariat extended the SCFC contract by entering into a 3 year agreement with ICF for USD 43,000 (2006-08).	CMS: Work with Range States, ICF and others, including CMS COP9, to secure funding for MoU7.	1
		ICF	SCFC	ICF: 1) Currently in Year 5 of the UNEP/GEF SCWP. Mid-term review completed and Phase 2 goals revised. 2) The UNEP/GEF SCWP MoU was signed with Kazakhstan in 2005 3) The SCFC salary co-financed by the UNEP/GEF SCWP. 4) Increased SCFC budget under the UNEP/GEF SCWP to fund assistants in Moscow as needed. In March 2007, hired two (25% time each) Communication Coordinators to help SCFC with these activities.	ICF: Continue to fund the SCFC through the UNEP/GEF SCWP until end of project in March 2009. ICF will work with CMS to fund this critical position.	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation	a) Develop comprehensive project proposal(s) to submit to appropriate agencies for possible funding	RU	ITERA	RU: The Oil and Gas Company "ITERA" provided funds for "Flight of Hope" Project.	RU: Continue work with non-governmental agencies to fundraise for the Siberian Crane conservation and release programme.	1
	b) Develop small-scale project proposals to submit to CMS or ICF for their consideration	ICF	RU-OCBC All Range States – WP, UNEP/ GEF SCWP	ICF: 1) In 2004 and 2005, supported 6-month training of two OCBC aviculturists (Tatiana Zhuchkova and Kirill Postelnykh) at ICF, Patuxent and with Operation Migration team. In 2005, supported training of OCBC veterinarian (Valentin Kozlitin) at ICF (6 weeks). 2) The UNEP/GEF SCWP supported participation of several Range States in the meeting to endorse the proposed WCASN in India in 2005.		
		AZ	ICF	AZ: Survey of the Siberian Crane sites was provided in 2005 with ICF support.	AZ: Develop proposal on Siberian Crane monitoring for ICF.	1
		KZ	ICF, CMS	KZ: Small project on publication of information and training materials was supported by Chevron through ICF.	KZ: Prepare grant proposals on implementation of basin agreement and ecotourism development.	1
	c) Appeal to governments for funding of Siberian Crane conservation activities related to the Siberian Crane MoU	CMS	All Range States-WP, ICF		CMS: 1) Explore feasibility to establish trust fund and leverage additional funding from national governments and other international sources. 2) Provide letters of support for efforts of national agencies and cooperating partners to secure additional funding for MoU-related activities. 3) Continue to coordinate with Friends of CMS to determine what support could be provided to the MoU's implementation in collaboration with ICF.	1
		KZ	CMS		KZ: Apply to CMS to provide letters of appeal to the Government to support Siberian Crane Conservation measures.	1

Programme	Activity	Range State / Organisation	Collaborator	Progress/Results (2004-2007)	Further Specific Activities (2007-2009)	Priority
<p>6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation</p>	<p>c) Appeal to governments for funding of Siberian Crane conservation activities related to the Siberian Crane MoU</p>	<p>RU</p>	<p>RU-OCBC, USFWS</p>	<p>RU: 1) Developed fund raising. In 2006 the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources Management provided funds (\$9,500) to OCBC and for monitoring and reintroduction work (\$26,500). 2) Initial discussions have taken place with Friends of CMS, a German based NGO to secure future funds; no specific approach to the US Fish and Wildlife Service has been made for funding (USFWS).</p>	<p>RU: Continue to work with governmental agencies for fund raising for the Siberian Crane conservation and release programme.</p>	<p>1</p>

Figure 2: Map of Siberian Crane Western Flyway



Map by the International Crane Foundation 2005
 Cartographer: Zoë Rickenbach