

Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding

NATIONAL REPORTS (2007-2010)

UZBEKISTAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

<p>Range State: <i>Uzbekistan</i></p> <p>Agency or institution responsible for the preparation of this report: <i>Department for protection flora and fauna under State Committee for Nature Protection of Republic of Uzbekistan</i></p>
<p>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input: <i>Institute of Zoology Academy of sciences of Republic of Uzbekistan, Crane Working Group of Republic of Uzbekistan</i></p>
<p>Memorandum in effect in Range States since (dd/mm/yyyy): Signed 13.12.1998 in Ramsar</p>
<p>This report was last updated: (dd/mm/yyyy): 15.02.2010</p>
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION:

The purpose of completing the national report is to provide information on your country's implementation of the Siberian Crane MoU including, as far as possible, contributions of cooperating non-governmental partners. Implementation will be assessed in terms of the six objectives of the Conservation Plan (CP). The reporting template is divided into these six main objectives, and asks specific questions in relation to the activities that need to be carried out to fulfil those objectives.

Please answer all questions as fully and as accurately as possible. It may seem time-consuming, but once you have completed the first report, the next time will be much easier because you can simply revise your existing report.

Comment boxes are provided next to most of the questions to explain what information needs to be provided. Text boxes can be expanded to accommodate longer answers or to explain and provide additional information, beyond what is requested. Details of future plans are especially encouraged. Wherever possible, please try to indicate the source of information used to answer a particular question, if a published reference is available. Remember that you are sharing information with other countries about your progress, so that it may be of benefit to them. At the same time, you may find it useful to look at other countries' reports to get ideas for Siberian Crane conservation that might be adapted to your context.

Please submit the completed report to the CMS Secretariat (cms@un.int) by email, as a Word attachment. Feel free to attach additional material (published reports, maps etc) to this template and send them separately by e-mail or by post.

OBJECTIVE I: REDUCE MORTALITY

1.1. Determine and monitor prevailing threats of all types to the Siberian Crane and its habitats

1.1.1. What are the main identified threats *in the Siberian Crane nesting and wintering grounds and along migration routes* in your country? Please use the text box to describe them in detail, including their root causes .

DIRECT THREATS

Poaching / Capture

Along migration routes of Siberian Crane there are sometimes poaching. Poachers shoot Demoiselle and Common cranes. As result certain threat for migrating Siberian Crane is present. Rangers try to control and punish poachers as provided by law.

Poisoning (including lead poisoning)

Power lines

DISTURBANCE (by otherwise legal activities)

Hunting

Official hunting hold in wetlands and arable lands of respublic, some of which once have been stopover place of Siberian Crane. So, threat of disturbance birds exists along migrating route.

Fishing

Fishing is implementing almost in all water bodies of Uzbekistan. So, this activity can sometime be as disturbance for cranes which are stopped in these wetlands for rest or feeding during migration.

Tourism

Agriculture

Along migration routes of Siberian Crane the main threat is historical changing of habitats (wetlands) in southern part of Aral Sea region and along rivers Syrdarya and Amudarya as result of developing of agriculture in the 20-th century. Many wetlands in the flood lands were drown up. Delta of Amudarya river has drown up due to deficit of water using for agriculture in territories which situated upstream.

Data on records of Siberian Crane in Uzbekistan during last 50 years showed that there are no traditional stopovers in the territory of Uzbekistan. Geography of records of Siberian Crane is very wide. They fly over country as transit migrants. Sometimes they stop for rest and feeding.

Other forms of disturbance

Gas and oil producing company make some disturbance in the feeding places during wintering.

HABITAT DEGRADATION

Water diversion

Along migration routes of Siberian Crane the main threat is historical changing of habitats (wetlands) in southern part of Aral Sea region and along rivers Syrdarya and Amudarya as result of developing of agriculture in the 20-th century.

Data on records of Siberian Crane in Uzbekistan during last 50 years showed that there are no traditional stopovers in the territory of Uzbekistan. Geography of records of Siberian Crane is very wide. They fly over country as transit migrants. Sometimes they stop for rest and feeding.

Wetlands drainage and conversion

Aydar-Arnasay lakes system is one of the biggest in Uzbekistan. It was create in 1969 as result of flooding natural depression in the south-eastern part of Kyzylkum desert. Since 1969 it included two big lakes: salty lake Tuzkan and brakish lake Aydar and also many not big Arasay lakes, some of them were salty, some saltish. During last ten years some changes were made in this system. As result water level was drop and this process is continuing now. It means that after some years water of this lakes system becomes salty and lakes will be shallower.

Oil and gas development

Pollutants

Other threats (please specify and describe)

1.1.2. Describe a few “best practice” approaches for conservation and management of the Siberian Crane to minimize key threats to Siberian Cranes and their habitats in your country.

On the flyway of Siberian Crane the polder system was created in Southern part of Aral Sea region in the framework of national and international programs which targeted mitigation of consequences of the ecological crisis in of this region. It was made for restoration wetlands instead of lose Amudarya river’s delta for waterbirds including some rare species (Dolmatian Pelican, White-headed Duck, Slender-bill Curlew and others). This system was created in the territory situated to the right from the former delta of Amudarya river. Also new wetlands were created in former floodland of Janadarya river in the same region.

1.1.3. Has your country taken any measures to ban or modify hunting season or regulations as needed in local areas to minimize these threats to the Siberian Crane?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please describe these measures in detail.

Past activities

Future plans

1.1.4. Has any **illegal hunting/poaching/trapping of birds** been known to occur in the Siberian Crane habitats in your country?

YES NO

If yes, describe the measures being taken to deal with this problem and any difficulties encountered in this regard.

Period of autumn migration of Siberian Crane in Uzbekistan is the same with autumn hunting. Territory around the lake Aydarkul, where Siberian Crane was recorded in 2002, is free shoot grounds. Leaflet with Siberian Crane identification was prepared, printing and distributed among hunters.

1.2. Strengthen and improve enforcement of legislation for crane protection

1.2.1. Does your country have legislation to prohibit hunting and trade in the Siberian Crane, their eggs, parts and products and to protect habitats important for the Siberian Crane (and other species)? YES NO

If yes, please list the relevant legislative documents. If no, please see question 1.2.3

All species of animals which are included in the national Red Book and international Red List of endangered species IUCN are protected by law (Law on Nature Protection, Law on protection of Fauna, governmental regulation No.508 «Position on procedure of using, import and export objects of fauna outside of republic of Uzbekistan state boundary and management of hunting and fishing farms» and Hunting Rulls.

Also Republic of Uzbekistan is responsible for protection of Siberian Crane, other cranes and their habitats due to signed international conventions and agreements: CMS, Ramsar, CBD, CITES, CCD, Mou Siberian Crane, AIWA.

1.2.2. Describe efforts among federal/state/provincial agencies to cooperate on law enforcement to ensure compatible application of laws across and between jurisdictions (within country or through bilateral/multilateral agreements).

1.2.3. Has your country conducted any reviews or harmonisation of local and national legislation to address any gaps or inconsistencies in relation to Siberian Crane conservation?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no gaps or inconsistencies exist)

If yes, please list any amendments made in legislative documents during the reporting period and future plans in this regard.

Past activities

Future plans

1.2.4. Please indicate any continuing weak points in the practical application and enforcement of existing legislation. Include recommendations on how the local and/or national legislation could be improved and better enforced to conserve the Siberian Crane and its important habitats.

OBJECTIVE II: MONITORING AND RESEARCH

2.1. Monitor and study the Siberian Crane and its habitat

2.1.1. What is the estimated number of Siberian Cranes in your country? Please include the basis (i.e. source of information) for this estimate.

As a rule single birds are recorded during migration and not every year.

Please indicate the population trend: INCREASING DECREASING STABLE
 NOT APPLICABLE (no Siberian Cranes in country)

2.1.2. What kind of monitoring has been conducted in known Siberian Crane areas in your country to estimate numbers of Siberian Cranes and determine population trends?

a) Ground survey YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities
Since 2000 UzCWG held information company among ornithologists, rangers and students of biological faculty of Samarkand, Tashkent, Termez and Bukhara universities, schoolchildrens in Tashkent and Samarkand sityes. Correspondents reported new information immidiatly.

Future plans
Such collaboration will be continued in future

b) Air survey YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Counts YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Special counts of Siberian Crane not made in Uzbekistan due to rarity of this species. Since 2000 Institute zoology and CWGUs carry out regular winter observation water bodies in the country. In this period there were some records of Siberian Crane.

- 2002, April, 3. One Siberian Crane was observed in big flock of Eurasian Crane near western-north end of Aydarkul Lake (Navoi province, rangers report, Lanovenko, 2002). Coordinates 41°05'N, 066°10'E.
- 2003, Oktober, 5-10. One Siberian Crane flu in flock of 15 Eurasian Crane near Deukhona Lake (Bokhara province, rangers report, Lanovenko, 2004). Coordinates 39°05'N, 064°45'E.
- 2007, April, 7. One young Siberian Crane was observed on shallow place in Kattakyrgan water reservoir (Samarkand province, ornithologists observation, Belyalova, Fundukchiev, 2007). Coordinates 39°47'N 66°15'E.
- 2007, October, 10-12. Ten Siberian Crane flu in flock of 150 Eurasian Crane near Tudakul Lake (Bokhara province, rangers report, Shilina, 2008). Coordinates 39°44'N 64°56'E

Extreme cold winter was in Central-Asian region in January-February 2008.

In January-February 2008 CWGUz observed wintering places of hydrophylic birds and cranes in Uzbekistan due to extreme cold condition of winter weather. All water-bodies were frozen in the end of first decade of January. Ice covers wetlands during January and February. In the south of Uzbekistan ice was open in the beginning of March only. Snow cover disappeared in the middle of February. We observed water reservoirs, lakes, canals in Bukhara, Kashkadarya and Surhandarya regions in southern part of Uzbekistan.

In Bukhara region all waterfowl were flied away after frozen waterbodies during three day. In Kashkadarya region near the border with Turkmenistan (Southern Uzbekistan) local fisheries told that about 300 Common Cranes, lot of Gray-lag Gees and ducks (mainly Mallard) were died without meal on the ice of the water reservoir Talimarjan. We count here about 200 cranes. In Surhandarya region local people told about many dead waterfowl, especially coots. Eurasian Cranes comes to the homesteads without fens due to finding meal in condition of very cold and snowing winter. Some thousand cranes were died.

Future plans

d) Questionnaire or reports from local people YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Questionnaire for search new wintering places of cranes was distributed among rangers in Southern Uzbekistan. Information about Siberian Crane observation enter from local people to the local branch of State committee on nature protection.

Future plans

Questionnaires will be used in future.

2.1.3. What *long-term* monitoring programmes (i.e. of at least 10 years duration) have been initiated or planned for the Siberian Crane in your country?

State programme “Cadastre of fauna of Republic Uzbekistan” include special section which provide investigation of rare species. As result new data for rare birds species were collected for new edition of national Red book. Lack of money is a reason of low activity and data deficit. This programme will be continued if nearest future.

2.1.4. Which of the following methods have been used to determine new migration stopovers, wintering areas, as well as summering areas of juvenile and adult Siberian Cranes?

a) Satellite tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Color banding YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

It is necessary to mark two Siberian Cranes which now live in Bukhara centre for breeding of rare animals.

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

2007 Questionnaires were distributed among rangers in the southern part of Uzbekistan and Fergana valley. The aim was to find new migration stopovers and wintering grounds of Siberian and Eurasian Crane in Uzbekistan. This activity was making of UzCWG and Gosbiocontrol. As result new wintering place of Eurasian Crane near Talimarjan water reservoirs in Kashkadarya region was found.

Future plans

Activity will be continued in future.

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Ground ornithological observation of water bodies and adjoining territory in February 2008 by ornithologists of Institute of zoology Academy of Sciences RUz and CWGUz confirmed existence new wintering ground of Eurasian Crane in Southern Uzbekistan in Kashkadarya province. Number of Eurasian Crane which spent winter near Talimarjan water reservoir estimated about 500 birds.

Future plans
Questionnaires distribution and ground ornithological observation of water bodies will be continued in Southern Uzbekistan.

f) Other reports YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities
Reports were received from different target groups.
During migration one Siberian Crane was observed in Kattakurgan water reservoir by ornithologists of biological faculty of Samarkand State university in the framework of field research of the IBA project. This information is reliable, because ornithologists used telescop and have experience.

Also we have reports from Bukhara region about observation 10 Siberian Crane near Deukhona Lake in flying flock of Eurasian Crane on the distance 500 m without binoculars from rangers. This data was published (Shilina, 2008).
Other report about observation more then 20 Siberian Crane on the short distance without binoculars near Kuymazar water reservoir in October 2008 from student of biological faculty of Bukhara state university.
Frontier from the territory "Termez" situated in Amudarya flood land informed CWGUz that he heard from other peoples about records Siberian Crane in this territory and described this bird. But he newer sow Siberian Crane himself.
All these reports are questionable.

Future plans
Work with rangers and local people will be following

g) Other methods (please specify) YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities
Questionnaires distribution

Future plans
Prolongation will be used

2.1.5. Have all reported sightings of the Siberian Crane been investigated?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no sightings)

Past activities

Conversation with informer and observation of reported territories were held.

Plan for immediate response to future sightings:

Activity for clearing and confirmation new information will be continued.

2.1.6. Have any studies been carried out on the population dynamics, habitat requirements, and effects of habitat changes and causes of any decline of the Siberian Crane in your country?

YES NO

If yes, please provide a list of on-going and completed studies with references if results are already published.

Past activities

Future plans

2.1.7. Give a list of any other available publications issued during the last reporting period that include baseline information from studies carried out in your country on Siberian Crane populations and their habitats.

Past activities

Investigations of ecological conditions wintering Eurasian Crane was made in 2004-2005 in Southern Uzbekistan (Termez) with target to estimate this territory for creating wintering place of Siberian Cranes raised in breeding centre.

Results of these investigations were published:

E.N.Lanovenko, A.K.Filatov, A.G.Ten, E.A.Filatova 2007 The monitoring of the wintering of Common Crane in Southern Uzbekistan. Biodiversity of Uzbekistan – monitoring and using. Tashkent. P.89-98. (in Russian).

E.N.Lanovenko, A.G.Ten, A.K.Filatov 2008 Measurements of the Common Crane's Middle Toe Imprints in the Wintering Grounds Near Termaz, Southern Uzbekistan. Cranes of Eurasia (biology, distribution, migrations). Issue 3. Moscow, Moscow Zoo. P. 96-98. (in Russian)

E.N.Lanovenko, A.K.Filatov, A.G.Ten, E.A.Filatova 2008 Peculiarities of the spatial distribution, feeding behavior and diet of the Common Crane in wintering grounds in southern Uzbekistan. *Cranes of Eurasia (biology, distribution, migrations)*. Issue 3. Moscow, Moscow Zoo, P. 99-105. (in Russian)

E.N.Lanovenko, A.K.Filatov, E.A.Filatova 2008 The threats to the Common Crane wintering in Termez, Uzbekistan. *Cranes of Eurasia (biology, distribution, migrations)*. Issue 3. Moscow, Moscow Zoo, P. 189-192. (in Russian)

Ye.N.Lanovenko Amudarya floodlans near Termez. Kashkarov R.D., Welch G.R., and Brombacher M. Eds. (2008): *Important Birds Areas in Uzbekistan – Priority sites for conservation*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan. P.150-152.

Also there are publication about new Siberian Crane records on the flyway.

S.E.Fundukchiev, L.E.Belyalova 2008 Kattakurgan reservoir Important Bird Areas in Uzbekistan – Priority sites for conservation. Kashkarov R.D., Welch G.R., Brombacher M. eds. Tashkent, Uzbekistan. P.134-136.

Также существуют публикации о встречах стерхов в Узбекистане во время миграции:
xxxxxxx, bulletin

Future publication plans
New information will be published

2.2. Maintain national databases on the Siberian Crane and its habitats

2.2.1. Does your country contribute to the regional database on the Siberian Crane and its habitats? YES NO

If yes, please provide details of contributions made to the database.

Past activities

Future plans
National data base will be develop.

2.3. Promote or take into account avian influenza surveillance at important crane sites

Describe efforts taken to collaborate with, and complement activities of other agencies to strengthen sample collection for surveillance of avian influenza in migratory waterbirds at network sites and other important crane sites.

Past activities

Ornithologists from the Institute of Zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences assisted Republic Veterinary Laboratory in process of sample collection for surveillance of avian influenza H5N1 in migratory waterbirds at network sites and other important crane sites (place of concentration).

Future plans

Activity will be continued if necessary.

2.4. Evaluate efficacy and application of research/monitoring

2.4.1. Have research and monitoring activities, such as those described above in Section 2.1., been reviewed and evaluated for their effectiveness?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please describe the result of these reviews in detail.

2.4.2. Have any research results been applied to improve management practices and mitigation of threats to the Siberian Crane?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please describe briefly how the management practices have been improved as a consequence of research results.

During implementation of the project "[[[[]]]]"

OBJECTIVE III: INCREASE NUMBERS AND GENETIC DIVERSITY

3.1. Promote recovery of Siberian Crane populations

3.1.1. How many eggs were produced during the reporting period for release programmes?

As part of the response, given below, please describe also any problems you have encountered in trying to produce enough eggs requested for the release programme as well as recommendations for their solution and future plans.

NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

3.1.2. How many chicks were reared for release programmes using:

- a) Costume (isolation rearing) technique?
- b) Parent rearing technique?
- c) Hand rearing technique?
- d) Other techniques (please specify)?

Males	Females
Males	Females
Males	Females

NOT APPLICABLE

Please also describe problems you have encountered during the rearing of chicks for release programmes. What decisions and measures have been undertaken to solve these problems?

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3.1.3. Which of the following methods have been used to restore Siberian Crane populations:

- Release costume- or/and parent-reared Siberian Cranes *on breeding grounds*, with/without captive reared Eurasian Cranes.
- Release costume- or/and parent-reared Siberian Cranes *on stopovers along migration routes*, with/without captive reared Eurasian Cranes.

- Release costume- or/and parent-reared Siberian Cranes *on wintering grounds*.
- Other methods (please specify).
- Not applicable

Two young Siberian Crane raised in Oka breeding centre(Russia) have been imported to Uzbekistan. They were placed in the Center for breeding rare species of animals in Bukhara province for investigation adaptation of this species to the winter climatic and other ecological conditions in Uzbekistan with future aim to create the new safe wintering place for Siberian Crane.

3.1.4. Please describe in more detail the release activities undertaken during the reporting period, as well as the results. What problems, if any, did you encounter during the release programme implementation? What has been (or will be) attempted to resolve these problems?

NOT APPLICABLE

3.1.5. Have any genetic studies been conducted to manage the genetic diversity of wild and captive populations of the Siberian Crane?

- YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please list these studies and give references if their results were published.

Past activities

Future plans

3.2. Develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes based on those used by Eurasian Cranes

3.2.1. Have any surveys been conducted to identify relatively safe habitats of the Eurasian Crane populations (i.e. ecologically suitable areas on the breeding grounds, along the migration route and on the wintering grounds) - for subsequent Siberian Crane (re)introduction there? Please describe results of this work.

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

2004-2005 Weather conditions and other threats on wintering place of Eurasian Crane were conducted in the flood land of Amudarya river not far from the Termez town in Southern Uzbekistan. Up to 6 to 20 thousand cranes spend winter time there every year. Territory protected by frontiers. Feeding resources presented of rice and wheat fields. The main potential threat is decreasing of sown area. Also there are a lot of *Cyperus rotundus*, which tubercles is preferential species of food for cranes and geese in this territory.

This territory identified as relatively safe habitats of the Eurasian Crane populations (i.e. ecologically suitable areas along the migration route and on the wintering grounds) - for subsequent Siberian Crane (re)introduction there.

Investigation of new Eurasian Crane wintering ground was made near Talimarjan water reservoir in Southern Uzbekistan. This territory is not protected. Wintering cranes are feeding on wheat fields. There are some disturbance from gas producing company in the feeding places during wintering.

This territory identified as not relatively safe habitats of the Eurasian Crane populations on the wintering grounds for subsequent Siberian Crane introduction there.

Future plans

Monitoring of wintering places of Eurasian Crane near Termez and Talimarjan water reservoir and research adaptation of Siberian Crane for winter conditions in Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara will be continued.

3.2.2. If yes, what methods have been used for these purposes?

a) Ground survey

Past activities

Observation of territory with car. Visual observation with binocular and telescope.

Future plans

Investigation of ecological conditions (air temperature, ice and snow covering and others), threats, crane counts, observation birds behaviour and habitats.

b) Air survey

Past activities

Future plans

c) Other (please specify)

Past activities

Successful result of questionnaire distribution among rangers and hunters in 2007 and 2008 become base for ornithological observation new wintering place of Eurasian Crane.

Future plans

Collecting data from correspondents (rangers, hunters, local people, ornithologists) will be prolonged.

3.2.3. Has any research been conducted on potential Siberian Crane release sites?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please describe the research and the results in detail.

Past activities

2004-2005 Weather conditions and other threats on wintering place of Eurasian Crane were conduct in the flood land of Amudarya river not far from the Termez town in Southern Uzbekistan. Up 6 to 20 thousand cranes spend winter time there every year. Territory protected by frontiers. Feeding resources presented of rice and wheat fields. The mane potential threat is decreasing of sown area. Also there are lot of Ciperus rotundus, which tubercles is preferential species of food for cranes and geese in this territory. Autumn, winter and spring dynamic of number cranes was retraced. Then migration of Eurasian and Demoiselle Cranes was observed too. This territory is important for migrating flocks both species – Demoiselle and Eurasian as safe stopover place along the migration route.

This territory identified as relatively safe habitats of the Eurasian Crane populations (i.e. ecologically suitable areas on the wintering grounds) - for subsequent Siberian Crane (re)introduction there.

2007 Acceptable place was determined by Russian (Dr.T.Kashetseva) and Uzbek scientists (Dr. N.Soldatova) for subsequent Siberian Crane introduction there in the territory of Centre for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara which situated on the migration route of Eurasian and Siberian Cranes.

2008 In the October 2008 scientists from Russia Dr. A.Sorokin and Dr.Yu.Markin observed flyway of Siberian Crane along Syrdarya river and visited Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara with aim to start preparation on creation conditions for subsequent Siberian Crane (re)introduction there.

2009 Russian ornithologist (Dr. A.Sorokin) with assistance of uzbek specialist observed second flyway of Siberian Crane along the Amudarya river in Oktober.

In November 2009 Russia imported two Siberian Crane in Uzbekistan, where research their adaptation for winter conditions was started in Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara.

Future plans

To enhance observation of Eurasian Crane and Siberian Crane migration in Bokhara region.

3.2.4. Which of the following methods have been or are being used to determine the migration routes of various populations of Eurasian Cranes wintering within the current and former range of the Siberian Crane:

a) Satellite tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

It is necessary to use satellite tracking for Siberian Crane before start their migration from Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara.

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

c) Color banding. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

It is necessary to use color banding for individual identification Siberian Cranes from Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara to observe them on the distance. Radio tracking for research and control their daily feeding movements and support their safety is desirable. So, we need to get color bands and radio tracking equipment.

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Questionnaires were distributed along migration route and in regions of proposed wintering grounds of Eurasian Crane in previous period and than more stable from them were determined by ground ornithological survey.

Future plans

To continue search new stopover of Eurasian Crane on the Siberian Crane and Eurasian Crane common flyway.

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Ground survey help to determine stable stopover place of Eurasian Crane during autumn migration near Tuzkan Lake in Djizak province. This lake is part of Aydar-Arnasay lakes system, where in 2002 Siberian Crane was recorded.

Visual observations conducted in territory "Termez" shown difference in behavior between flocks of Eurasian Crane from wintering and migrating populations. Wintering birds are more timorous. Flight distance of wintering cranes is about 80-100 m when people appear in their field of view. For some migrating flocks flight distance not exceed 40-50 m because these birds are not afraid of people. This place is important for migrating and wintering Eurasian Crane.

Ground survey with car and using of telescope show that place of active spring migration of Eurasian Crane situated in southern part of Surkhandarya province. At this territory many flying and resting migrating flocks counted hundreds and sometimes about thousand crane were observed by ornithologists.

Siberian Crane was recorded in this territory in 1975.

Future plans

f) Other methods (please specify) YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Method of measurement print of middle toe of Eurasian Crane was used in territory "Termez" for identification wintering and migrating populations. But significant differentiation was not determined in this territory.

Future plans

3.2.5. Which of the following methods have been or are being used to develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes using migration routes of Eurasian Cranes:

Placing captive-produced Siberian Crane eggs into nests of wild Eurasian Cranes

Past activities

Future plans

Release of costume- or/and parent-reared Siberian Cranes (with/without captive- reared Eurasian Cranes on the Eurasian Crane staging areas)

Past activities

Future plans

NOT APPLICABLE

3.2.6. Has monitoring of Siberian Cranes released into the wild on Eurasian Crane staging areas or reared by this species been conducted to determine of their migration route and wintering area?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, which of the following methods have been or are being used for these purposes?

Satellite tracking

Past activities

Future plans

Radio tracking

Past activities

Future plans

Mortality sensors

Past activities

Future plans

Colour banding

Past activities

Future plans

Surveys

Past activities

Future plans

Other reports

Past activities

Future plans

Other methods (please specify)

Please describe briefly the results of monitoring Siberian Cranes released into the wild or reared by Eurasian Cranes. Describe the challenges, recommendations and plans for the future.

In Oktober 2009 pair of Siberian Crane raised in Oka cranes breeding center (Russia) was bring to Center for reproduction rare animals near Bukhara (Uzbekistan) and located to the big open volary. Volary include part of desert territory with natural vegetation. Now birds inhabits in this volary. Experiment is a part of international project "Fly of hope". Obtained result will be used in process of planning next steps of the project.

OBJECTIVE IV: PROTECT AND MANAGE IMPORTANT HABITATS FOR THE SIBERIAN CRANE

4.1. Protect and manage important habitats for the Siberian Crane

4.1.1. Have any local site support groups, site management committees or stakeholder groups been established for the purpose of collaborating in the protection of Siberian Crane sites?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please list them and describe each in more detail.

4.1.2. Has your country taken any measures in collaboration with local communities to protect inadequately protected or newly identified important areas for Siberian Crane?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

In and near territory "Termez" in Surkhandarya province, which proposed as potential place for creating new wintering grounds for Siberian Cranes of central population reared in breeding center, were held seminars for frontiers, local people, hunters, students and lectures of Termez state university, schoolchildren and teachers, representatives of local community and administration, mass media with aim to inform about possible records of Siberian Crane and necessity protection this species.

CWGUz prepared proposal for giving status of protected area for territory "Termez".

In Bukhara university and center for reproduction of rare animals students and lectures, staff and research workers, rangers and representatives of local branch of State Committee for nature protection were informed about necessity protection Siberian Crane. Some of them collect information about records Siberian Crane in nature.

Future plans

To continue and enhance activity in the field of public awareness in Bukhara region.

To collaborate with local branch of State Committee for Nature protection for creation special new protected area for cranes, waterfowl and Bukhara Deer (zakaznik, IV category of IUCN) in Surkhandarya province.

4.1.3. Have any management plans been developed for Siberian Crane sites?

YES NO IN PREPARATION

Please describe in more detail any progress made to date, including activities undertaken on the ground

Past activities

Future plans

4.1.4. Have any applied research studies been conducted in the Siberian Crane sites in support of site management?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please describe how the results have been applied to site management:

Past activities

Future plans

4.1.5. Have any environmental impact assessments been conducted in relation to human development activities affecting important Siberian Crane habitats, including possible impacts of climate change?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide details

Past activities

Some years ago Uzbekistan choose new way of grain independence in agriculture. So, sown area was increased in the country. It is preferable situation for migrating and wintering Eurasian Crane. All places of high cranes concentration along migration routs and in wintering ground situated in territories where grain is raised.

In January-February 2008 CWGUz observed wintering places of hydrophylic birds and cranes in Uzbekistan due to extreme cold condition of winter weather. All water-bodies in central and southern Uzbekistan were frozen up the end of the first decade of January. Wetlands were covered by ice during January and February. In the south of Uzbekistan ice was open in the beginning of March only. Snow cover disappeared in the middle of February. We observed water reservoirs, lakes, canals in Bukhara, Kashkadarya and Surhandarya regions in southern part of Uzbekistan.

In Surhandarya province local people told about many dead waterfowl, especially coots. Eurasian Cranes come to the homesteads without fens due to finding meal in condition of very cold and snowing winter. Some thousand cranes were died.

In Kashkadarya province on the ice of Talimarjan water reservoir in January about 300 Eurasian Crane were dead.

In Bukhara region waterbirds flew away during three days after decreasing of temperature.

Future plans

Monitoring of Eurasian Crane wintering grounds will be continued.

4.1.6. Are water levels monitored at Siberian Crane sites?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide references for monitoring plans or procedures and any results.

In Uzbekistan control of water level implement special departments: hydrometeorological service – lakes, rivers, others natural water bodies and discharge lakes; Ministry of agriculture and water sector – water reservoirs, canals and collection network. This is common rule.

4.1.7. Have training and other capacity building activities been undertaken at important sites for Siberian Cranes? .

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Trennings for workers and scientist of Bukhara Center for reproduction rare animals were made in Oktober 2008, January 2009, November and Desember 2009.

Round Table "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network" was organized in November 2009 for hunters, workers of local department of State Committee for nature protection, representarives of local administration, frontiers, department of popular schooling, mass media, scientific workers of Surkhan State nature reserve, lecturers of Termez State university in the Termez town.

Future plans

4.1.8. What is being done to protect important habitats for the Siberian Crane *outside* of established protected areas?

Past activities

Some wetlands, where Siberian Crane was recorded during last years, determined as Important birds areas (IBA):

- Tudakul and Kuymazar Reservoirs, IBA No: UZ015
- Nothern shore of Aydarkul Lake, IBA No: UZ029
- Kattakurgan Reservoir, IBA No: UZ038

Also all territory of republic is under control of rangers of the State Committee on nature protection.

Future plans

At present time Institute of zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences and CWGUz move proposal for creation new protected area “Ornithological zakaznik Muzrabad” (IV category IUCN) for IBA “Amudarya flood lands near Termez” included in WCASN as “Termez” .

OBJECTIVE V: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION

5.1. Share information on Siberian Crane conservation efforts through the mass media

5.1.1. Please describe measures taken in your country to publicize Siberian Crane conservation efforts.

Please list TV or radio programmes, magazines, newsletters, collections of papers, websites, etc where information about Siberian Crane conservation efforts was publicized.

MASS MEDIA:

Past activities

Reports about new Siberian Crane records and educational and information activity as “Crane day” are published in ECWG Newsletters, site of Uzbekistan Society for the Protection of Birds (UzSPB), in local newspapers and transmit by local and republic radio and TV.

In Tashkent newspapers “Mirror” “Truth of the East”, “Evening Tashkent” and others published news about four Siberian Crane arriving in Uzbekistan from Russia.

Scientists, members of CWGUz and workers of Tashkent Zoo and State Committee for nature protection gave an interviews for local and republic radio and TV in Tashkent and Bukhara in November 2009.

Information about round table and presentation territory “Termes” as the chain link in WCASN was presented in the newspaper “Surkhan tongy” , local TV “Ishonch TV” and site of SPBUz (www.uzspb.uz)

Future plans

To use mass media, internet and others sources for spread information about Siberian Crane and activity for its protection.

5.1.2. Please describe education and information materials that your country has developed, produced and disseminated for public awareness and to support education and information programmes.

MATERIALS:

Past activities

Materials prepared by Crane Working Group of Eurasia regularly used in implementation the process of information activities. Last years CWGUz takes part in preparation materials together with CWGE. So posters, booklets, badges and stickers prepared in Russia are in Uzbek language.

2007 Gosbiokontrol (department under State Committee for nature protection) prepared three leaflets: "Save the Cranes" with pictures of Siberian Crane and other crane species, identification of Siberian Crane (pictures shown difference between Siberian crane, White Stock and Great White Heron), "Fly of hope" described idea of this project. These leaflets were distributed in Bukhara region in connection with forthcoming arrival Siberian Crane Bukhara Center for reproduction of rare animals.

2009 CWGUz prepared and published brochure "Termez, WCASN", which will be used in the round table with aim of presentation this territory and handing CMS certificate.

Also films produced ICF , Oka center for rare species of cranes and  are used too.

Future plans

Kalendar with Siberian Crane foto and posters will be published.

5.2. Community involvement

5.2.1. Please list education and information programmes and public events that your country has conducted for target groups of local people (especially for hunters) on protection of the Siberian Crane and its critical habitats during the reporting period. Provide details on their outputs and effectiveness.

EVENTS:

Past activities

Cranes are species which prohibited for hunt in Uzbekistan. Leaflets were distributed among hunters and rangers for saving Siberian Crane and two other cranes species with assistance of Society of hunters and fisheries and Gosbiocontrol (Department of State Committee for nature protection). It was draw attention of hunters to learn differentiate cranes from similar species as White Stock. 2007

2007 "Crane Day" was spent in Bokhara State University

2008 "Crane Day" was spent in Bokhara and Samarkand State Universities.

2009 "Crane Day" was spent in Bokhara State University

2009 "Birds Day" dedicated to Siberian Crane and other crane species was spent in boarding school in Tashkent.

2009 Two Siberian Cranes inhabit in the Tashkent Zoo. Presence Siberian Crane in exposition helps to attract attention of visitors to the problem of protection critically endangered species.

2009. Round table "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network" was organized for different target groups: decision makers (regional and local

administration, regional branch of State committee for nature protection, stakeholders (frontiers), hunters, scientific worker of the neighbouring protected area (Surhanskiy zapovednik), lecturer of Termez state university and local mass media.

Future plans

To organise "Crane day" in the Tashkent Zoo to attract attention of visitors and mass media to the problem of protection critically endangered species and habitats along its flyway.

Make interview (radio, TV, magazines and newspapers)

Create short videoclip for demonstration on TV

Organize trainings for rangers and hunters by Gosbiokontrol and CWGUz

5.2.2. Which of the following target groups have been involved in education and awareness programmes described above?

- General public
- Local government
- Hunters
- Local communities
- Indigenous groups
- Tourists
- Media
- Teachers
- Students
- Schoolchildren
- Frontier-guards
- Scientists
- Businesses
- Donors
- Other (describe):
- None of the above

5.2.3. Please make an objective assessment of the effectiveness of these education and information programmes and public events.

- a) Development and implementation Action Plan of Siberian Crane conservation provided to prepare and disseminate information materials among different target groups in Russian and Uzbek languages, to spend "Crane Day" in different regions, organize round table of "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network" for representative of local administration, regional Department of Nature Protection, guard borders, hunters and mass media to attract attention to the site importance and hand CMS certificate.

5.2.4. Describe other initiatives already undertaken or planned by your country to involve **local communities**, in particular, in the planning and implementation of Siberian Crane conservation programmes (eg. community-based protection areas).

Past activities
Meetings and conversation take place with border guards during of many years monitoring territory "Termez". Some of them take part in cranes counts.

Future plans
To involve rangers, hunters and frontiers in monitoring and Eurasian Crane counts along Siberian Crane flyway in future.

5.2.5. Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to involve and encourage the cooperation of **government agencies**, **NGOs** and the **private sector** in Siberian Crane conservation programmes.

Past activities
Active collaboration of Gosbiocontrol, CWGUz, UzSPB, regional rangers, lectures and students of universities allowed to organized wide observations network. As result last years information about Siberian Crane records was presented by rangers from Bukhara region and ornithologists from Samarkand state university. This network used for distribution of information materials.

Future plans
To support and develop network for crane observation.

5.2.6. Have any community learning / information centres focusing specifically on the Siberian Crane and its wetland habitats been established in your country?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please give details

Past activities

Future plans

5.3. Sustainable livelihood opportunities

5.3.1. Describe initiatives already undertaken or planned to identify and facilitate sustainable livelihoods (including income-generating activities) for local communities related to the management of Siberian Crane sites.

Past activities

Future plans

OBJECTIVE VI: ENHANCE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6.1. Strengthen international and national cooperation and information exchange

6.1.1. What is the national lead agency responsible in your country for coordinating Siberian Crane conservation and management policy? Please provide contact information for your country's designated administrative and technical focal points with responsibility for liaising with counterparts in other countries, the SCFC and co-operating organizations.

The national lead agency responsible in Uzbekistan for coordinating Siberian Crane conservation and management policy is Department on protection flora and fauna under State Committee for Nature Protection.

Administrative focal point: Gennady Goncharov

Technical focal point: Evgeniya Lanovenko: lanovenko@uzsci.net

Cooperating organizations: Institute of Zoology of Uzbek Academy of Sciences, Crane Working Group of Uzbekistan, Society of Protection of Birds of Uzbekistan, Republic Society of hunters and fishers.

6.1.2. Are the roles and responsibilities of all government agencies related to the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes and their habitats clearly defined?

YES NO

Please describe them in more detail, and indicate any need for clarification.

Responsibilities divided between some government and NGO organizations.

State Committee for Nature Protection implement conservation of Siberian Crane and condition its habitats in territories where species was recorded - organization function and local protection.

Ministry of Agriculture – protection of local territories and habitats condition.

Republic Society of hunters and fishers - protection of local habitats and public awareness.

Institute of Zoology of Academy of Sciences of Republic Uzbekistan – scientific researches, monitoring, preparation recommendation on improvement protection Siberian Cranes and their habitats

Public awareness and capacity building – *State Committee for Nature Protection, Crane Working Group of Uzbekistan and other NGO.*

6.1.3. Has your country participated in any *international* projects or/and programmes, directly with other countries, for cooperative management of Siberian Crane populations?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please list projects and/or programmes in which your country participates and provide details .

Uzbekistan take part in development of international Action Plan for Siberian Crane conservation.

2008-2009. Researches implement in the framework of the project "Fly of hope" in collaboration with Russian scientists.

2009 Uzbekistan take part in preparation Atlas of WCACN

Pilot Project: Implementation of Ecological and Public Awareness Activities in Uzbekistan under the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds

6.1.4. Identify your country's priority *international* research and monitoring needs for the Siberian Crane (ie work requiring international collaboration)

To continue researches:

- along migration rout of central population of Siberian Cranes and their stopovers using observations of Eurasian Cranes concentrations cites,
- adaptation Siberian Crane for ecological condition in Bukhara centre of reproduction rare animals species.
- Investigation of water reservoir Tudakul for including in Ramsar list. (Siberian Crane recorded not far from Tudakul in 2007)
- Uzbekistan have propose to conduct investigation of Eurasian Crane wintering places –

potential wintering places of Siberian Crane together with Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Iran in territory of these countries.

6.1.5. Has your country established a national crane working group or been involved in the activities of any regional or international crane working groups?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Please provide details of past activities and future plans

Uzbekistan established a national crane working group in 2001, which is the associated member of the CWGE and takes part in national and international activities in the framework of CWGE.

6.1.6. Has your country undertaken any initiatives (through collaboration with other Range States) to standardise methods, levels of detail and frequency of data collection?

YES NO

If yes, please describe briefly what methods are proposed.

Изучение морфологических признаков с использованием измерения отпечатков следов среднего пальца для определения популяционной принадлежности серых журавлей на зимовке в районе Термеза. Южный Узбекистан (Лановенко, Тен, Филатов, 2008). Этот метод может быть использован для исследований зимующих журавлей на других территориях.

Uzbekistan have propose to conduct investigation of Eurasian Crane wintering places – potential wintering places of Siberian Crane together with Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Iran in territory of these countries.

6.1.7. How often does your country share with other Range States scientific and technical information and expertise of regional interest?

REGULARLY NOT REGULARLY NEVER

Details

Information about new registration of Siberian Crane and activity in Uzbekistan report to CWGE for publication in CWGE Bulletin regularly.

6.1.8. How often does your country provide data on Siberian Crane sightings and monitoring of the Siberian Crane sites along the western, central and eastern flyways to the database/GIS under the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project?

REGULARLY INFREQUENTLY NEVER NOT APPLICABLE

If never or not regularly, please explain what challenges you have encountered.

Information about new registration of Siberian Crane and activity along central flyway report to

CWGE regularly. Information about new records is check always. This information can be used UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project in short time.

6.2. Development of the Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane (WCASN-SC) and other waterbirds

6.2.1. Name any existing approved sites in your country already included in the WCASN-SC.

Territory "Termez"

6.2.2. List any sites that have been nominated for the WCASN-SC and are undergoing internal review at present.

Territory "Termez" was nominated in 2007. Uzbekistan have no new site which is undergoing internal review at present.

6.2.3. List any activities that your country has undertaken that are relevant to Siberian Crane conservation.

Details

Round table was created in Termez to increase attention to the importance of the Termez Site through WCASN dedication ceremony.

Import of Siberian Crane into Uzbekistan is good basis for development researches and public awareness.

6.3. Support Siberian Crane conservation activities through the East Asian – Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

6.3.1. Please describe any flyway level activities for migratory waterbirds being undertaken by your country that are associated with the Crane and Stork Working Group's goals on Siberian Cranes in East Asia.

NOT APPLICABLE

6.3.2. Has your country undertaken any activities to support the designation of additional sites of importance for Siberian Cranes in East Asia for the EAAFP migratory waterbird site network?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Please provide details

6.4. Capacity building

6.4.1. Describe your country's needs, in terms of human resources, knowledge and facilities, in order to build capacity to strengthen Siberian Crane conservation measures.

Uzbekistan needs in additional information materials, exchange of international experience in research field and creation of information company.

6.4.2. Describe any training provided to support the conservation of the Siberian Crane and its habitats (e.g. workshops held, training manuals produced, fellowships, etc.) at site, national and international levels. Indicate your plans for the coming year.

Past activities

2007 "Crane Day" was create in Bokhara State University

2008 "Crane Day" was create in Bokhara and Samarkand State Universities.

2009 "Crane Day" was create in Bokhara State University

2009. Round table "Presentation of Termez az wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network" was organized for different target groups: decision makers (regional and local administration, regional branch of State committee for nature protection, stakeholders (frontiers), hunters, scientific worker of the neighbouring protected area (Surhanskiy zapovednik), lecturer of Termez state university and local mass media.

Future plans

To organize special training for rangers.

"Crane day" create in universities for future teachers and different target groups regularly

6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation

6.5.1. Has your country submitted any comprehensive project proposals to appropriate agencies for possible funding support?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide details

Request for funding prepared Zoological society of Uzbekistan (CWGUz) to ICF and have got financial support from the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project for organization round table of "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network" for representative of local administration, Regional Department of Nature Protection, guard borders, hunters and mass media to attract attention to the site importance (400 USD).

In 2009 request to Ramsar Secretariat was made for grant on including water reservoir Tudakul (not far from Tudakul Siberian Crane recorded in 2007) in Ramsar list. At present project is approved, but money not given yet (39 Swiss franc).

6.5.2. Has your country tried to solicit funds from, or seek partnerships with, other governments, major donor organisations, industry, private sector, foundations or NGOs for Siberian Crane conservation activities?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide details

Partnerships with Wetlands International in 2003-2005 allowed conduct monitoring in wetlands of Southern Uzbekistan where new wintering grounds of Eurasian Crane was discovered.

In the framework of the regional project on Important bird areas (Kazakhstan- Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) the territory "Amudarya floodlands near Termez" was included in the international data base as important bird area (No Uz 047).

6.5.3. Has your country developed small-scale project proposals to submit to CMS or ICF for their consideration?

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

If yes, please provide details of the proposals and their outcomes (positive / negative).

2009. ICF was support a Project on the implementation of education and public awareness activities *in Uzbekistan, as a Siberian Crane Range State and signatory to the* Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (MoU) under Convention of Migratory Species (CMS). The activities conducted at the *Termez wintering site* designated as *Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds (WCASN)* in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in 2007 during the Sixth Range State meeting. The WCASN was created for implementation of UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (SCWP) purposes on developing flyway network for conservation of the Siberian Crane and its habitats and according to implementation of CMS MoU Conservation Plan. 400 US \$.

Zoological Society and Crane Working Group of Uzbekistan were responsible to organize education and public awareness activity at Termez, WCASN site, as outlined in the attached Statement of Work (*see Annex I*) under a round table "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network".

6.5.4. What funding has your country mobilised for *domestic* implementation of the Siberian Crane conservation activities related to the Siberian Crane MoU? Where possible, indicate the specific monetary values attached to these activities/programmes, as well as future plans.

2007. Gosbiokontrol: Preparing and printing of three color leaflets. 120 US \$

2008. Institute Zoology Academy of Sciences: organization expedition for ornithological observation waterbirds and Eurasian Cranes wintering places in extreme cold winter 2008 in Southern Uzbekistan. 800 US \$.

Gosbiokontrol: investigation ecological conditions along Siberian Crane flyway along Syrdarya river in the territory of Uzbekistan. 100 US \$

2009. Gosbiokontrol: investigation ecological conditions along Siberian Crane flyway along Amudarya river in the territory of Uzbekistan. 200 US \$

Bukhara Center for reproduction of rare animals: volary construction 600 US \$; conduct observations and feeding Siberian Crane 400 US \$

Institute of Zoology: preparing and organization round table "Presentation of Termez as wintering site of the Western/Central Asian Site Network".600 US \$