

Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding

NATIONAL REPORT (2007-2010)

CHINA

GENERAL INFORMATION

<p>Range State: People's Republic of China</p> <p>Agency or institution responsible for the preparation of this report: Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management, State Forestry Administration of China</p>
<p>List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input: National Bird Banding Center of China, Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection, Chinese Academy of Forestry</p>
<p>Memorandum in effect in Range States since (dd/mm/yyyy): in March, 1999</p>
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Designated Focal Point (and full contact details):

Administrative Focal Point:

Dr. Zhang Dehui

Deputy Director

Wildlife Management Division of Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management, State Forestry Administration of China

No. 18, East Street, Hepingli, Dongcheng District,

Beijing, PC: 100714

Email: zhangdehui@forestry.gov.cn

Technical Focal Point:

Dr. Qian Fawen

Deputy Director

National Bird Banding Center of China

Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection

Chinese Academy of Forestry

No. 2, Dongxiaofu, Qinglongqiao, Haidian District,

Beijing, PC: 100091

Email: cranenw@caf.ac.cn

Dr. Jiang Hongxing

National Bird Banding Center of China

Research Institute of Forest Ecology, Environment and Protection

Chinese Academy of Forestry

No. 2, Dongxiaofu, Qinglongqiao, Haidian District,

Beijing, PC: 100091

Email: hxjiang@caf.ac.cn

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

No poaching and capture accidents occurred in China during the reporting period.

- Poisoning (including lead poisoning)

No dead report related to poisoning.

- Power lines

No hurt or collision report by the power lines along the flyway and wintering sites.

DISTURBANCE (by otherwise legal activities)

- Hunting

No hunting was permitted in China since 1998 except a few hunting areas, which should conduct the evaluation by the experts and get the permission from the State Forestry Administration. The Siberian Crane was listed as the Grade I of national protection wildlife in China, which indicated the highest legal protection in China.

- Fishing

In the staging sites during autumn migration period, the fishing would affect the normal feeding behavior of Siberian crane. In wintering sites, this activity would also affect their feeding behavior. However, it is not the root threat to the Siberian Crane due to difference of their food composition.

- Tourism

The major threat of the tourism is the cameramen, who always make the cranes flying after take some pictures. But very few sites have the tourism so far.

- Agriculture

For the staging sites especially for the NE China, the water supplied for agriculture production resulting in the degradation of natural wetlands, and the irrigation water released back to the wetland affected the waterbirds including cranes. Therefore, the agriculture development should be a major threat to the migrating Siberian Cranes in NE China.

- Other forms of disturbance

For some staging and wintering sites, the grazing should be also one kind of disturbances.

HABITAT DEGRADATION

- Water diversion

Water diversion is the major threat to the wetlands in NE China, where is located at the semi-drought zone. The natural rainfall is limited in the normal years. Even so, the water should be diverted for agriculture and industry in some areas, which caused the wetlands in the process of degradation.

- Wetlands drainage and conversion

Wetlands drainage and conversion are also the major threats to the Siberian Crane, including staging and wintering sites. Majority was converted to the agriculture lands. Some was turned into salinization land, desertification land and grassland.

- Oil and gas development

Only oil exploitation occurred in a few staging sites along Siberian cranes' flyway in China. It should be an indirect threat to the Siberian Crane, which speed up the wetlands development and increase the disturbances to the wetlands due to the road network.

- Pollutants

No direct witness proved the Siberian Crane affected by the contaminants from agriculture production and oil exploitation in China.

- Other threats (please specify and describe)

Crab-raising in some wintering sites would reduce the aquatic food plants for the Siberian Crane. Water level in some wintering sites cannot be controlled according to the requirements of Siberian Cranes to provide enough food.

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.

- **Control water level of feeding areas to ensure enough biomass of aquatic food plants for Siberian Crane. This was implemented in Momoge National Nature Reserve in the autumn 2009, which attracted more than 1600 Siberian cranes feeding in one sub-lake with less than 1000 hectares.**
- **Reduce the human disturbances to the foraging Siberian Cranes through establishment of community co-management committee. This was effective in Duchang County of Poyang Lake Basin, which reduce the grazing, fishing and other disturbances for the wintering Siberian Crane and other waterbirds.**
- **Raise the public awareness to protect not only Siberian Crane but also other wildlife effectively. This was conducted with the monitoring along the Siberian Crane’s flyway in China. The local residents not only reported the location of Siberian Cranes, but also join the protection team for the waterbirds.**

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

Any hunting for Siberian cranes is prohibited and illegal in China. However, there is no legal protection for the wetlands a few years before. In 2005 and 2006, the wetland laws were issued in Jiangxi and Heilongjiang Provinces to provide the legal basic for the wetlands’ protection. It is worthwhile to mention that over 95% population of Siberian cranes winter at Poyang Lake Basin in Jiangxi, and partial population migrate through the wetlands in Heilongjiang Province, such as Zhalong.

Future plans

The State Forestry Administration was pushing to issue the Wetland Law at the national level, and also urged the provincial governments to develop the provincial wetland laws. All of these would ensure the protection for the wetlands in China.

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.

Only illegal trappings were found in some Siberian Crane habitats, especially in its wintering site - Poyang Lake Basin. The local Forestry Policemen would involve in

the case inquisition. The illegal trappers would be punished according to the China National Wildlife Law. Meanwhile, the local forestry people and reserve staff would conduct public education when the wintering waterbirds arrive annually.

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

Executive Rules for the China National Wildlife Law.

Executive Rules for the Protection of China National Nature Reserves

Management Rules for the Import and Export of Endangered Wild Fauna and Flora of China.

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).

In China, the highest powerful instrument is the China National Wildlife Law for any illegal wildlife case. The agency at any level should refer to this law to enforce and judge the punishment.

With regard to the bilateral/multilateral agreements, the related provinces have included the agreements' lists into the protection list at provincial level. They also take into account of these lists if the species is out of the National Protection Wildlife list.

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.

It is recommended to revise the China National Wildlife Law and adjust the National Protection Wildlife List. Because no legal measures to punish illegal accidents for some species, which shared the same habitats with endangered species, such as Siberian cranes.

It is recommended to conduct the regular monitoring on the waterbirds including Siberian cranes, and public education to the communities and related stakeholders.

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.

3000-4000 Siberian cranes. The maximum counting at Momoge during spring migration in 2009 reached 3001 Siberian cranes. The counting of wintering Siberian cranes ranges from 3100 to 4006 individuals during the past seven years.

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

In the wintering of 2007, 2008 and 2009, 6 agencies with over 100 peoples involved in the wintering survey on Siberian Cranes in the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River, which covered known and potential distribution areas in Jiangsu, Anhui, Jiangxi, Hunan and Hubei Provinces.

Future plans

National Bird Banding Center of China was being coordinated with the State Forestry Administration and WWF to raise the regular fund to support the operation of national monitoring network for waterbirds, especially Siberian Cranes.

b) Air survey YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

In Feb. of 2009, the aerial survey on wintering waterbirds including Siberian Cranes in Poyang Lake Basin was conducted.

Future plans

For the Poyang Lake Basin, we are seeking the fund to conduct the aerial survey on Siberian Crane and other waterbirds.

c) Counts YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

The counts of waterbirds including the Siberian Crane were conducted with the ground and aerial surveys as presented in a) and b). Generally, the wintering population kept stable in the past few years, and key staging sites for Siberian Cranes were identified through the flyway monitoring.

Future plans

The monitoring will be connected with the activities of North-East Asian Crane Site Network in China.

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

Past activities

Future plans

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?

Siberian Crane and other international important waterbirds are normally monitored by any related nature reserves along the flyway and wintering grounds. The State Forestry Administration is one of the signatories of Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network, normal monitoring activities are required by the action plan of the network. Some important nature reserves, such as Zhalong, Xianghai, Poyang Lake, are sites of the network.

Undergoing the establishment of Construction Planning for Wildlife and Nature Reserves from 2010-2015 and 2010-2020. Siberian Crane is the priority species in the

planning.

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

Actually we have tried to put the PTT on the wintering Siberian Crane in Poyang Lake Basin in 2007 and 2008. Unfortunately, the capture was zero.

Future plans

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Color banding YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

During the flyway monitoring, the questionnaire would be distributed to the local people in the meantime. Some staging sites such as huanzidong in Laioning Province, Xingkai Lake of Heilongjiang Province, the wetlands in Baicheng City of Jilin Province were reported by the local people at the first time.

Future plans

Continue to take advantage of this mechanism to collect the information as much as possible. Volunteered flyway monitoring activities are encouraged now in order to collect more information about the migration of Siberian Crane in China.

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

In spring and autumn migration periods of 2007, 2008 and 2009, 18 agencies with over 70 peoples involved in the monitoring of Siberian Cranes along its flyway in China, which covered about 244-302 monitoring sites of 51-60 wetlands.

Future plans

National Bird Banding Center of China was being coordinated with the State Forestry Administration and WWF to raise the regular fund to support the operation of national monitoring network for waterbirds, especially Siberian Cranes.

In addition, some flyway sites expressed their active attitude to continue the monitoring even no fund available for the recent years.

Actually China NBBC cooperated with the Jiangxi Wildlife Management Bureau to conduct the ground survey on wintering Siberian Cranes around the whole Poyang Lake Basin in late Feb 2010. In the meantime, the flyway sites in China also conducted the simultaneous monitoring on April 17th during the spring northern migration period of 2010.

f) Other reports YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

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

Past activities

Future plans

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no sightings)

Past activities

The member of monitoring team close to the reporting sites would check the number of Siberian crane when they got the information from different channels. The sites were included for monitoring afterwards.

Plan for immediate response to future sightings:

NBBC would arrange the staff or inform the local people to check when any information is available in the future.

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

The ecological relationship between Aquatic plants, water level and waterbirds especially for Siberian Cranes was conducted in Poyang Lake since 1999 to the present. The report can be available through consultation with the International Crane Foundation.

Future plans

Population dynamics and habitat requirements are going to be studied by NBBC at Momoge NNR, which is the most important staging site for Siberian Crane during migratory seasons.

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

Shai Kai, Zhu Shuyu and Yu Hailing. 2007. Population dynamics of crane species in Yellow River Delta during the migration periods from 1998 to 2006. China Crane New, 11(1): 9-12.

Zou Changlin, Wang bo and Wang Yong. 2008. Brief introduction of migratory Siberian Cranes in Momoge in 2008 Spring. China Crane News, 12(1): 24.

Jiang Hongxing, Qian Fawen, Shu Jinde and Liu Hua. 2009. Establishment of a new migration monitoring network across China for the Siberian Crane and other waterbirds. Proceedings of Gumi International Crane Workshop. Published by Korea Crane Network 2009. Pp56-60.

Future publication plans

One book themed as waterbirds monitoring along the flyway of Siberian Cranes in China, and one book themed as wintering monitoring of Siberian Cranes along the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River will be published by the China Sciences Press this year, which are the outputs of Siberian Crane Wetlands GEF Project in China.

2.2. Maintain and contribute to the regional databases on the Siberian Crane and its habitats

2.2.1. Does your country maintain and 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

In the late 2009, the China NCU of SCWP (located in the NBBC) has compiled and submitted the complete waterbirds' data including Siberian cranes from 2003 to the present to the RCU (ICF).

Now the China NBBC kept these data and the GIS management systems for Poyang Lake Basin and Songnen Plain.

Future plans

China NBBC will be on behalf of the SFA to continuously coordinate the cranes monitoring along the Siberian crane flyway in China and maintain the existing GIS management systems.

The data will distribute to the regional database depending on the function of the existing database.

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

In 2007, 350 National Wildlife-derived Infectious Disease Surveillance Stations were established under the SFA, which covered over 90% crane sites in China. The major responsibility is to monitor the avian influenza for the birds and poultry. At present, 250 stations have got investments from the central finance in 2008 and 2009, which include equipments and instruments, and operation fee. Additional 100 stations will be funded this year.

Over 1000 monitoring stations for wildlife diseases had been established. And more than 1700 stations have been planned and reported for approval from the state council.

Future plans

SFA has been actively cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health, to jointly negotiate with the National Development and Reform Commission to push the wildlife-derived infectious disease surveillance plan incorporated into the national plan.

If the plan be approved, it would put the avian influenza surveillance into the regular business around the whole China.

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.

The results and related data of ecological relationship monitoring between waterbirds, water level and aquatic plants, and the wintering waterbirds monitoring in Poyang Lake Basin were being reviewed by the Chinese scientists. The final evaluation report will be submitted to the Jiangxi People's Government, which would focus on the impacts of dam construction on the wetland ecosystem of Poyang Lake.

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.

The monitoring results in Songnen Plain indicate the Momoge wetland is the most significant stopping sites for Siberian Crane, and Zhalong wetland is the most significant breeding sites for Red-crowned Crane. To maintain and restore the key habitats for these endangered species, Heilongjiang Provincial Government has established the long-term water releasing fund for Zhalong in 2009, and Jilin Provincial Government was also taking account of establishment the similar fund for Momoge wetlands.

By the way, two provinces have released amount of water to maintain the integrity of wetland ecosystem for about 10 years, depending on the annual natural rainfall and ecological water needs by the wetlands.

OBJECTIVE III: INCREASE NUMBERS AND GENETIC DIVERSITY

3.1. Promote recovery of Siberian Crane populations

3.1.1. How many eggs were finally 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

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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. Has monitoring of Siberian Cranes released into the wild on Eurasian Crane staging areas or reared by this species been conducted to determine 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.

3.1.6. 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

Future plans

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

a) Ground survey

Past activities

Future plans

b) Air survey

Past activities

Future plans

c) Other (please specify)

Past activities

Future plans

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

Future plans

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

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

c) Color banding. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

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

Past activities

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

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.

During the implementation of SCWP in China, each site has established the site management committees to improve management and protection of wetlands and waterbirds, especially for Siberian Cranes and their habitats.

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

Wolong Lake and Huanzidong were established as the Liaoning Provincial Nature Reserves in 2001 and 2008 separately, where are newly identified important areas for Siberian crane during the migration route.

Jiangxi Forestry Department authorized the Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve to establish the protection stations around the whole Poyang Lake. To the present, additional 7 stations were established to enhance inadequately protected areas for Siberian Crane.

The State Forestry Administration conducted “The third migratory birds action” in 2008 to prohibit illegal hunting on wild birds.

The State Forestry Administration sent official notices to provincial governments to nominate bird-important sites to SFA, and carry out bird-hunting periods and areas, and strength wildlife law execution and public education activities. A reporting telephone number had been open to the public for any complaints and illegal activities on wildlife in 2009.

SFA had contracted with China Zoo Association to establish the genealogy diagram of Siberian Crane at zoos in China, and all individuals had been implanted with biochip as identification mark.

Future plans

Wolong Lake Provincial Nature Reserve of Liaoning Province is applying for the national nature reserve. It is hopefully approved in a couple of years.

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

With support by the SCWP project, 5 project sites except Xianghai NNR were developed the management plans not only focusing on the Siberian Crane, but also covering other waterbirds and their habitats.

Future plans

To put related management plans into operation, and to monitor and evaluate the efficiency of the 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

Ecological relationship between water level, aquatic food plant and Siberian Crane was applied into the management and control of water level for some important sites, such as Poyang Lake NNR and Momoge NNR.

Future plans

Ecological relationship research in Poyang Lake NNR will be applied in the management and protection of key wintering sites for Siberian Cranes. Accordingly, the threshold of water level for wintering Siberian Cranes was acquired and will be applied in the wetland conservation.

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

Impact of oil operation on the Momoge wetlands was conducted from 2005 to 2008. The results present the negative impact of oil operation on the wetlands and waterbirds, and put forward some mitigation measures.

Future plans

Impact of dam construction on the wetland ecosystem around the whole Poyang Lake Basin is being reviewed and evaluated by the Chinese scientists. Ecological responses of Siberian cranes to the climate change and human activities in Momoge wetlands are being initiated in this April. The results would mitigate the conflicts between water needs by agriculture and waterbirds.

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.

Poyang Lake NNR cooperated with ICF to monitor the water level at Siberian crane

sites from 1999 to 2009.

The relationship of water level and aquatic food plant by Siberian Crane was being tested in Momoge NNR since 2009. This activity will continue to test in 2010.

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

All nature reserves important for Siberian Cranes have improved their infrastructures and instruments, and enhanced the staff capacity building in the past 10 years. The major investments sourced from the central and provincial finance. Specific training and capacity building programme at 5 project sites in China had been conducted through the support from Siberian Crane GEF Wetland Project from 2003 to 2009.

Future plans

The governments at national, provincial and local levels will increase the investment for protection and management of wetlands and waterbirds from the different channels.

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

Past activities

Some monitoring and public environment awareness educations were being conducted for some inadequate protected areas, such as Wolong lake, Huanzidong and so on.

Future plans

To stimulate these important areas to establish related protection agencies, or nature reserve.

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

A lot of TVs and websites at central, provincial and local levels reported the information about Siberian Cranes and their habitats every year, especially when the cranes come. China Crane Newsletter and related publications of bird watching societies also published many information in related to Siberian cranes.

Future plans

The SFA continuously stimulate the related medias to report the information concerning conserving the Siberian Crane and their habitats. Taking advantage of the opportunities such as love-bird week, wildlife propaganda month, wetland day, crane day and migratory bird day, the SFA will arrange related information of Siberian cranes in their distribution ranges.

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

Main public awareness materials in related to Siberian cranes were published with support by SCWP China project, such as “I love Poyang Lake”, “My home at Keerqin”, “My home at Xianghai”, “Book related to the local perspectives at Zhalong” and so on. In the meantime, some posters, booklets, souvenirs in related to Siberian Cranes and their habitats were published and distributed among the Siberian crane sites along the whole migration route.

Future plans

To continuously use related public awareness book in the surrounding schools, and to enlarge the targeted audiences to use these materials.

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

Wintering camping and summer camping activities were conducted many times in some staging sites and wintering sites on protection of the Siberian crane and its critical habitats. 5 project sites of SCWP have established the community co-management committees during the implementation period. They would hold at least twice meeting every year to discuss protection and management of Siberian cranes and their habitats, and also raise recommendation the alternative mitigation measures between natural protection and community development.

Future plans

SFA will encourage the reserve to conduct the wintering and summer campings, and continue to operate the community co-mgt committees.

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.

The major assessment tool is to distribute the questionnaires according to the different

targeted groups in the different regions and different periods.

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

Almost all reserves have hired some local farmers as the guards or patrollers for the nature reserve. They would keep reporting on fires, hunting, poisoning, illegal development and other destruction activities in time. The responsible authorities would organize one or two meetings each year to introduce their responsibilities and train some basic knowledge.

Future plans

Considering the extensive wetland areas, the SFA would continuously encourage the reserves to hire the local farmers to act as the guards or patrollers. This approach not only increased their incomes, but also established the good relationship between nature reserve and local communities.

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

In China, the conservation fund mainly comes from the government agencies, and a minor part stems from the NGOs. The major problem is lack of operation, maintenance and monitoring costs.

Future plans

The SFA will actively coordinate with the State Council, National Development and Reform Commissions, Ministry of Finance and other agencies to improve the existing funding mechanisms, and raise more social funds for protection and management on wildlife and their habitats.

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.

<p>Past activities</p> <p>Some alternative livelihood activities were demonstrated in 4 project sites of SCWP in the past few years, such as natural gas construction, water-saving irrigation, fencing-raising of livestock, round-funding and so on.</p>

<p>Future plans</p> <p>SFA will encourage the other nature reserves to visit these demonstration sites to exchange information, learn lessons and apply the replicable activities.</p>

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.

<p>The Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management, State Forestry Administration of People's Republic of China is the national lead agency responsible for coordinating Siberian Crane conservation and management policy.</p> <p>The contact information in related to administrative and technical focal points is the same with last reporting period.</p>
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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.

<p>The Department of Wildlife Conservation and Nature Reserve Management, State Forestry Administration of People's Republic of China is the national lead agency</p>
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responsible for wildlife conservation, nature reserve management and wildlife-derived infectious disease surveillance.

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 .

China participated in the Siberian Crane Wetlands Project (UNEP/GEF), which initiated in April 2003 and ended in December 2009.

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

Migration research for Siberian Crane needs to be carried out cooperating with Russian Colleagues in the near future.

Monitoring information exchange needs to be enhanced.

Research and conservation purposed colleagues exchanges should also be encouraged between Russia and China.

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

China Crane Network was already formed under the mechanism of Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network. These sites were involved in the implementation of action plan of the network.

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.

Nature reserves, especially at wintering grounds had joined the Asian Waterbirds Count sponsored by Wetland International.

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 usually shared under the mechanism of Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network.

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.

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.

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

6.2.3. List any activities that your country has undertaken in relation to the CMS Central Asian Flyway Initiative that are relevant to Siberian Crane conservation.

Details

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

Siberian Crane is one of the targeted species under the focus of the Crane and Stork Working Group, any activities of the action plan are related to the conservation of Siberian Crane.

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

NNR of Keerqin and Momoge had already been designated to the EAAFP for the conservation of Siberian Crane.

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.

Training programme are usually required for local nature reserve staff in order to carry out any conservation activities for Siberian Crane.

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

Some training courses had been implemented for project sites of SCWP in China for the conservation of Siberian Crane. Training workshops of Ecotourism had been carried out by Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network since 2001 to 2008 every two years for the conservation of cranes in east Asia.

Future plans

Some kinds of training will be planned under the mechanism of Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network to improve the conservation status of cranes in east Asia.

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

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

China got financial support through UNEP from Global Environmental Facility to implement the Siberian Crane GEF Wetland Project from 2003 to 2009 with the coordination of ICF.

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).

Poyang Lake NNR had cooperated with ICF to conducted research on relations of water level, waterbirds, including Siberian Crane, and aquatic plants from 2001 to 2009.

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.

Some specific funds from the SFA have been mobilized for the implementation of action plan of Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network, which is closed related to the implementation of the Siberian Crane conservation activities under the Siberian Crane MoU.