

Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding

NATIONAL REPORTS (2007-2010)

AFGHANISTAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

Range State: Agency or institution responsible for the preparation of this report National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)
List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) Save the Environment-Afghanistan (SEA).
Memorandum in effect in Range States since 2006
This report was last updated: 24/02/2010
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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

Poaching is a major threat to all three species of cranes migrates through Afghanistan including Demoiselle, Eurasian and Siberian Cranes. These threats are mostly during migration seasons all over the stopover points in Afghanistan.

Poisoning (including lead poisoning)

Local hunters are normally use Chlor Diazepam, Melatonin, and an integrated locally made poison formed from DDT, Melatonin and other chemicals to anesthetize birds for easy capturing. This chemical has light temporary dorming effects on birds. Agricultural chemical (pesticides and insecticides) and chemical fertilizers can also affect birds during feeding in ground.

Power lines

There are few power lines built along the migration routes of Siberian Cranes extended from Uzbekistan in the north to Kabul in central Afghanistan that can affect the birds in the migration seasons. There are no major cases to determine power lines threats to birds yet. It would be a major threat in the future when rural areas electrification activities is implemented

DISTURBANCE (by otherwise legal activities)

Hunting

Hunting along the migration route is considered to be the primary factor responsible for the demise of Siberian Crane population. In 1998, a fledgling from one of the last pairs in the central population was probably shot in Afghanistan on its migratory route to India.

Based on presidential decree, hunting of all wildlife including birds and aquatic spp. are banded in Afghanistan.

- Fishing

- Tourism

- √ Agriculture

Agricultural development projects, construction of irrigation dam, and conversion of wetlands and water basins to agricultural land is another threats to Siberian and other cranes.

The environmental law is key tool to protect Siberian Crane from excessive hunting; however, the laws are weakly enforced and hunting remains the primary threat to the survival of the species. In 2006, Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Convention on Migratory Species and United Nations Environment Programme agreeing to take measures to protect the Siberian Crane.

- √ Other forms of disturbance

Other major threats are lack of law enforcement and low literacy rates. Existing of bird markets in different urban and rural areas and poverty around the migration corridor and landing areas.

HABITAT DEGRADATION

- √ Water diversion

Construction of irrigation dams and diversion of water for irrigation leads to habitat degradation in many parts of the country. Conversion of wetlands, water basins for agricultural activities causes serious threat to habitat and landing areas.

- Wetlands drainage and conversion

The few wetlands in Afghanistan is seasonal that affects the normal landing of birds. These are the two known wetlands in southern Afghanistan. Lack of legislation and access for monitoring and law enforcement has also been an issue.

- Oil and gas development

- Pollutants

Those wetlands and water bodies that are located in and adjacent to populated areas and markets have been polluted.

Other threats (please specify and describe)

Existence of illegal bird market in major cities

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.

Conservation education around migration routes

Involvement of local communities, religious scholars, community leaders Alternative poverty alleviation programs along migration routes

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

Prior to approval of environmental law, presidential decree to ban hunting of any kinds of wildlife and birds including migratory birds were issued for five years. The decree has weakly implemented due to lack of enforcement incentive.

Based on EL the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) approved and announced the second red list of 48 spp. Including Siberian crane to be protected in Afghanistan.

Future plans

Hunting regulation and procedures is in progress.

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.

There is extensive illegal hunting around migration routes that impose major threats during migration seasons of Siberian Cranes.

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

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).

Efforts are being undertaken to enforce environmental law and develop other regulations to reduce the threats to birds. An environmental council has been created to cooperate in law enforcement. Cooperation between central and provincial authorities is in its initial stages that will be strengthening in the future.

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

As a post conflict or in conflict country, there are extensive gaps in relation to legislative documents in Afghanistan. At the moment the following legislative documents have been existed:

1. Environmental Management Act
2. EIA regulation, policies and guideline
3. Air quality management regulations
4. Standards and Guideline

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.

Illiteracy rate in Afghanistan is extensively high. Hunting and disturb of native and migratory birds is a traditional business among communities.

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.

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

Ground survey in major migration routes and wetlands for Siberian cranes has been conducted in 2004. Despite familiarity of hunters with cranes, there was no sign of Siberian cranes in the area.

Future plans
The Afghanistan wildlife Executive Committee works to plan for future monitoring and identification.

b) Air survey YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Counts YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

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?

Afghanistan Wildlife Executive Committee (AWSEC) has been established by the government to develop plan for future undertakings.

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

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

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

Plan for immediate response to future sightings:

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

Future publication plans

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

Future plans

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

Future plans

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.

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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.

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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?

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

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

There has been ground survey in major landing and feeding areas of cranes in Afghanistan. Identification of likely habitat has also been conducted from 2004 and continues to identify other areas along the migration routes.

Future plans

Plan for continual research and studies along migration routes.

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

a) Ground survey

Past activities

Ground survey in major migration routes of Siberian cranes in the borders with Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan occurred in 2004-2005. The survey has not been able to identify landing sites.

Future plans

Efforts will be made to continue research and identification of areas where Siberian cranes landed and fed.

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
Ground survey of major areas

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.

The Afghanistan Wild Species Executive Committee, a body jointly established by the National Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to facilitate the designation of Protected and Harvestable Species Lists. These recommendations are in compliance with Chapter 6, §47, Items 1-4 of the Environment Law of Afghanistan and assist NEPA in fulfilling its initial obligations under the law.

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

There is no specific collaboration for Siberian cranes. The Afghanistan Environmental Council has been established to collaborate on general environmental protection including birds and wildlife.

Future plans

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

Under the Environmental law, and EIA regulation, and guideline, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of many of development projects has been considered by donor communities and Afghan government. Effective mitigation measures have been undertaken to reduce the impacts on endangered birds and wildlife species in Afghanistan. The EIA reports are to review by National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) expert for further process and licensing.

Future plans

Implementation of EIA regulations at all level to reduce threats of development projects on wildlife habitat, landing, and migration areas.

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.

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

A general environmental management trainings and specific trainings on wildlife and endangered species have been considered. Many environmental organization including government institutions conducted conservation education for different stakeholder at the central and provincial level to reduce the ever increasing threats to environment including fauna and flora. There has not been specific training on Siberian Cranes except few in specific workshops by a local NGO (Save the Environment –Afghanistan/SEA).

Future plans

Environmental protection strategy has considered capacity building and training in all major component of environment. There would be specific training in the issues.

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

Past activities

Conservation Education in major landing and migration routs of migratory birds have been key tools but not sufficient.

Future plans

Public awareness and conservation education strategy has indicated environmental education programs in schools, mosques and community gathering areas.

Identification of potential areas

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

Programme in mass media on general environment has been conducted in some cases. Journalism training by the government with the technical and financial support of international organizations.

Future plans

Support the environmental and conservation education around potential areas including migration routs of migratory birds and cranes.

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

Incorporation of environment and conservation into education curriculum is key tool for the public awareness.

Pamphlet and brochures on cranes conservation

Specific charts of Siberian cranes have been disseminated among local communities and religious scholars.

Booklet on Islam and conservation is in process to publish. This would be stronger tool to protect birds and wildlife including Siberian cranes.

Future plans

Develop strategy to support conservation education at the country level.

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

Some trainings including hunter trainings have been conducted by NEPA and MAIL in different areas especially around the protected areas and national parks. Protected Areas Committee from among communities around potential areas have been created. Few of these committee members have received training on different aspects of conservation including birds.

Future plans

Refer to 5.1.2. items

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): Religious scholars.
- None of the above

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

Integration of traditional knowledge and religious knowledge into environmental and conservation education has left positive impacts on the publics in few target areas. The process will strengthen to follow up such program will obviously strength the process of environment and biodiversity conservation.

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
Creation of national environmental councils from among local communities, local government, and religious scholars.

Creation of local conservation group in northern Afghanistan.

Future plans
Strengthen conservation committees, and local groups.

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

Future plans

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
Community Based Natural Resource Management is key tool that has been initiated in the last two years in Afghanistan. This process will support conservation of species.

Future plans
Strategy to protect wildlife in general.

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.

National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) is key policy maker for conservation of wildlife including cranes.

Address: Distric 9, 2nd street, Shash Darak, Kabul- Afghanistan

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.

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 .

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

National research and monitoring program of Siberian Cranes with the international and range state cooperation.

Ground and Arial monitoring of Siberian cranes landing and migration routes.

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

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.

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

Through the Siberian Cranes range state meetings

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.

As a post conflict country, Afghanistan depends on international support in many sectors including environment.

Lack of law and regulations

Low literacy level

Poverty and lack of consideration of wildlife as important biodiversity component.

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.

Two sites in Afghanistan have been proposed. These areas are Dashte-Nawar and Ab-i-Estada in Ghazni Province of Afghanistan. Studies to introduce Dashte-Nawar as possible site.

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.

Afghanistan has become as signatory country to CMS. Efforts are needed to strengthen the objective and criteria of CMS.

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.

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
Few experts from Afghanistan had undertaken training of Siberian cranes at the national level.

Future plans
Plan to provide training facilities for Afghan experts at the international level.

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

USAID has provided fund for conservation of biodiversity in Afghanistan in the last 3 years. Efforts to submit proposal to GEF are underway.

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).

A local conservation NGO has received small scale fund through ICF partners to promote conservation education, identify Siberian cranes fly way in Afghanistan and to construct cranes exhibition in Kabul zoo.

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.

Nil