



CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Distr: General

UNEP/CMS/SC-6/4
1 May 2007

Original: English

SIXTH MEETING OF THE SIGNATORIES TO
THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING CONSERVATION MEASURES
FOR THE SIBERIAN CRANE (*Grus leucogeranus*)
Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15-19 May 2007
Agenda Item 6.0

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

1. It is a general practice that the CMS Secretariat acts as the secretariat for Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) concluded under CMS auspices. The CMS Secretariat acts as Secretariat for the MoU pursuant to MoU paragraph 2. It also acts as the MoU depositary.
2. This note provides a brief overview of the Secretariat's responsibilities as depositary and provides a summary of the status of signatures to the MoU and the Secretariat's recruitment efforts since the MoU's entry into effect. Section 2 briefly summarises efforts to generate a provisional list of competent authorities and focal points.

Status of Signatures and Recruitment Efforts to Date

3. The CMS Secretariat undertakes a number of activities as the MoU's depositary. The primary activity is to keep track of the status of the MoU. The Secretariat keeps the original version of the MoU on file, it notifies the signatories of new signatures and it transmits certified copies of the MoU to the various Signatories and organizations that have signed the MoU.
4. Document UNEP/CMS/SC-6/Inf/1 notes that as of 1 May 2007 all 11 Range States in which Siberian Cranes are considered to regularly occur have now signed the MoU. The final signature was that of Afghanistan on 22 June 2006.
5. The CMS Secretariat has worked to recruit key governmental and international non-governmental organizations actively working on Siberian Crane conservation issues to sign the MoU as co-operating organisations. To date, three organizations - International Crane Foundation, Wild Bird Society of Japan and the CMS Secretariat - have signed the MoU as co-operating organizations. Wetlands International and the Cracid and Crane Breeding and Conservation Centre are expected to sign the MoU during the meeting.
6. By adding their signature to the MoU, co-operating organizations demonstrate their support for the implementation of the MoU and conservation plans. Some of the attributes that would be considered in determining whether an organisation would be invited to sign the MoU as a collaborator include *inter alia*: (1) a long term interest in the Siberian Crane; (2) a demonstrated commitment towards the MoU; and (3) a regional presence or influence, including good relations with Range States and national level NGOs in the agreement area.

Action requested:

- The Signatories are invited to consider and take note of the Secretariat's brief report concerning the status of signatures and recruitment efforts.
- Organizations meeting the criteria listed in paragraph 6 above are invited to express their interest in signing the MoU as a co-operating organization at the next Meeting of the Signatories.

List of Designated Competent Authorities and Focal Points

7. MoU paragraph 4 invites Signatories to officially designate a competent authority as a contact point for all matters relating to the MoU's implementation and to communicate the name and address of the authority to the Secretariat. In addition to this information, it would be useful to receive the name and address of an individual (focal point) within the competent authority with whom the Secretariat could correspond and who would have responsibility for coordinating the MoU's implementation.

8. By email the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator (SCFC) contacted Signatories and transmitted to them the Designated Competent Authority and Focal Point Form (UNEP/CMS/SC-6/Inf/4) with a request to return it as soon as possible.

9. A provisional list will be presented to the meeting as document UNEP/CMS/SC-6/Inf/3. The document will be circulated at the meeting to obtain any updates.

10. The list will be maintained and updated on a periodic basis by the SCFC in consultation with the Secretariat.

Action requested:

The Signatories are requested to:

- Take note of the provisional list of designated Competent Authorities and Focal Points.
- Provide updated contact information at the meeting, in writing, if it has not been already forwarded to the SCFC or the Secretariat.