



United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

REPORT TO THE 28th MEETING OF THE CMS STANDING COMMITTEE

Bonn, 21-22 April 2005

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper, prepared by the Division of Environmental Conventions (UNEP), gives information about substantive UNEP support to environmental conventions and to administrative support to CMS provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON).

A. UNEP SUBSTANTIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

I. UNEP's Support for MEAs

2. As a follow-up to the 10th meeting of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements in March 2004 (see CMS/StC27/Inf 7.2), UNEP has established an interdivisional task force to coordinate the work of all UNEP divisions in support of multilateral environmental agreements. A database is being developed to monitor the implementation of decisions of conferences of the parties with respect to which UNEP has been asked to take action. Desk officers have been appointed in the Division of Environmental Conventions to assist convention secretariats in their interactions with UNEP divisions and on administrative matters with the United Nations Office at Nairobi. A meeting of the ad hoc working group on administrative matters was held in May 2004 to discuss pending administrative issues with the UNEP administered multilateral environmental agreement secretariats.

II. **Project on issue-based modular approach to the implementation of the decisions of the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements at the national level**

3. A project on an issue-based modular approach to the coherent implementation of the decisions of biodiversity-related conventions at the national level has been launched with the support of all the major biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements including non-UNEP administered conventions such as the Ramsar Convention and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention). The CMS Secretariat are actively participating in the development of this approach. This project, which would initially involve countries in Africa, would assist countries in implementing the multilateral environment agreements to which they are party by providing them with structured information on cross-cutting topics. Specific products in the form of issue-based modules on cross-cutting topics would be developed to deliver this information. The project would aim at developing a system that could be applied to any cross-cutting topic for any combination of multilateral environment agreements. Following a consultative meeting with the major biodiversity conventions, four issues have been chosen

for the development of priority modules: Climate change; inland waters; invasive alien species; and sustainable use. To be properly appreciated, this project should be viewed in the context of biodiversity being one of the priority topics of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

III. Harmonization of national reporting

4. Following completion of the 4 country pilot projects (see CMS/StC27/Inf 7.2), a workshop was convened by UNEP/WCMC in cooperation with the Governments of Belgium and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Haasrode, Belgium, on 22 and 23 September 2004. The workshop was attended by representatives of the five global biodiversity-related conventions, eight countries, the European Commission and a number of international organizations with experience in this area. The objectives of the workshop were:
 - To review the conclusions and recommendations from the four pilot projects;
 - To review the conclusions and recommendations of other recent harmonization and streamlining initiatives and the implications of other recent developments in reporting processes;
 - To use those inputs as a means for further identifying and clarifying mechanisms to support harmonization at the national level; and
 - To develop plans and set priorities for future work in this area.
5. Based on pilot project reports, presentations made at the workshop and subsequent discussions, the workshop developed 12 recommendations for action. Amongst other things, those recommendations called on conventions and agreements to clarify and redefine the information they need in order to assess implementation and outcomes. They should also address the balance between reporting on implementation and reporting on outcomes, particularly in the light of the 2010 target. When requesting reports, conventions and agreements should also explain clearly what the information will be used for and how it will be analysed. The recommendations also stated that the reporting should relate to decisions taken by the governing bodies, both providing information to support the decision-making process and reporting on actions taken to implement decisions and their effect. With this in mind, after each meeting of governing bodies, countries should disseminate the relevant parts of decisions and an analysis of their impacts to all ministries that are affected by those decisions. The liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions should consider establishing a technical task force to develop and promote a streamlined reporting agenda across conventions and agreements, taking into account the issues raised in the pilot projects and in the present report, developments requested by governing bodies, and issues discussed during the Environmental Management Group review. The task force would comprise technical officers from the secretariats supported as necessary by other appropriate experts. It is anticipated that the group and task force would work intersessionally to develop proposals which would be considered and adopted by governing bodies.
6. At the national level, focal points for each of the biodiversity-related conventions and agreements should establish a mechanism appropriate to national circumstances to ensure coordination of all activities to do with the implementation of international obligations at the national level, including reporting. Countries should develop their capacity for managing information more effectively to support implementation of obligations and for reporting. Such approaches should focus on enabling access to information, should build on the experience of the pilot projects and use both existing tools (e.g. the Global Biodiversity Information Facility or the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network) or tools and networks that are being

developed. Access to information necessary for implementation of, and reporting to, all biodiversity-related agreements through a single portal or clearing house would significantly facilitate a more harmonized approach.

7. Conventions and agreements should also explore opportunities for taking concrete actions to reduce the reporting burden, for example, by not adding new requests for information without removing existing requests in parallel, by reducing the amount of information requested, by linking reporting more closely to strategic planning, by exploring new mechanisms for reporting, and so on. This could be done within the existing mandates of most secretariats. Capacity-building activities for information management and reporting among local, national, regional and multilateral applications should focus on all three levels of capacity development: individual, institutional and systemic. It is also recommended that steps should be taken to ensure that the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies take fully into account the coordination and information management required to support both implementation and reporting for the various multilateral environmental agreements when financing and implementing programmes.

IV. Expert workshop promoting CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy

8. UNEP, together with the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, financed a workshop on CITES/CBD cooperation and synergy, which was held from 21 to 24 April 2004. Workshop participants paid specific attention to the issues of sustainable use of wildlife resources, access and benefit sharing, and linking site-based, thematic and species-based approaches to achieving biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Changes desired within each of these areas were identified, methods and mechanisms to achieve those changes suggested, and possible constraints to achieving such changes noted. Other areas covered during the workshop included links to the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2010 target on biodiversity loss, the CBD global strategy for plant conservation, and invasive alien species. The workshop report was tabled for consideration during October's CITES meeting in Bangkok, and will be brought to the attention of participants in the next meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), tentatively set for February 2005, also in Bangkok. The full report of the proceedings of the workshop can be accessed at http://www.traffic.org/news/cites_cbd.html.

V. Regional Implementation Workshops

9. The CMS Secretariat has participated in the six regional workshops organized by DEPI between 2003 to March 2005 on Compliance and Enforcement of MEAs where valuable input was received on the review of the Manual on the Guidelines on Compliance and Enforcement of MEAs. They have confirmed participation to the two upcoming regional workshops for Arabic speaking and French speaking African countries in May 2005. CMS has provided cases studies and experiences incorporated into the Manual.

VI. Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP)

Since June 2004, the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) has been active on a number of fronts:

Joint activities with CMS

10. As a member of the GRASP Partnership, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) secretariat together with the International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) and the GRASP secretariat is developing a CMS Article IV agreement between Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda for the conservation and management of the transboundary mountain gorilla and its habitat. This is particularly timely following Rwanda's recent ratification of CMS which means all 3 Range States are Parties.

The Acting Executive Secretary of CMS also participates by special invitation in the meetings of the Interim GRASP Executive (normally held by teleconference).

Other GRASP activities focusing on mountain gorillas

11. GRASP responded to the destruction of forest in the Virunga Volcanoes transboundary conservation area bordering DR Congo, Rwanda and Uganda, which began in May 04. The UNEP Executive Director wrote to the environment ministers of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda urging them to intervene to stop the destruction. The level of international pressure was sufficient to succeed in having the settlers and their crops removed from the park. UNEP provided USD 50,000 to facilitate building a stone wall around the affected area to clearly demarcate the park boundary and prevent further incursions.
12. UNESCO held a major international donors' conference on 16-17 September in Paris on promoting and preserving Congolese heritage. A major focus of this was the great apes including the mountain gorillas. During the conference, GRASP furthered its ties with donors and GRASP range state focal points.
13. In November 2004, Rwanda, home to the mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, become the first of the 23 great ape range states in Africa and Southeast Asia to officially endorse and distribute its National Great Ape Survival Plan (NGASP). Funding for the implementation of the identified priority activities is being sought.

Other recent GRASP activities relevant to CMS

14. **GRASP attended the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES COP-13), Thailand, October 2-14, 2004. At the conference, Resolution Conf. 13.4 Conservation of and trade in great apes, was adopted with specific reference to GRASP.**
15. GRASP Technical Support Team missions have been undertaken to Guinea, Conakry, on 28-29, October 2004, Cameroon, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 24 January and 7 February 2005, Malaysia between 2-8 March 2005 and in Australia on 9-22 March 2005.

Strengthening the GRASP Partnership

16. The GRASP partnership has been progressively growing and now boasts of 38 NGOs and private sector organizations
17. An Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on great apes and GRASP will be held on 5-9 September 2005 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. President Kabila of DRC

announced his government's commitment to host the IGM during his address to heads of state at the meeting of the Council of Ministers in charge of Forests in Central Africa (COMIFAC) in February 2005. The meeting will bring together representatives of range states and other states, particularly potential donors, representatives of NGOs and the private sector. Outcomes of the meeting are expected to be the adoption of a global strategy for the survival of great apes, a high level declaration recognizing the importance of great apes, a series of significant pledges of financial support and the full operationalization of GRASP as a WSSD type II partnership.

18. The report and documents arising from the Preparatory Expert's meeting for the Intergovernmental Meeting on great apes and GRASP are available on the GRASP website at www.unep.org/grasp

Collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements

19. GRASP has a good working relationship with four biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, three administered by UNEP – CITES, CBD and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) – as well as one administered by UNESCO – the World Heritage Convention. All four are GRASP partners.

United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

20. UNEP-WCMC has continued to collaborate with the Indian Ocean South-East Asian Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Marine Turtles (IOSEA MoU) on the management of data on nesting and migrating of marine turtles in that region. The result has been the production of a unique interactive mapping system (IMAPS), which is the first of its kind in the world, and that enables the analysis of the trends of these colonial organisms both at local and regional scales.
21. Collaboration has also continued with the Secretariat of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) on the development of the Agreement's website and its mapping system. The Centre has also assisted AEWA in the planning of solutions for their information management needs in relation to the analysis and use of Party Report data, and the harmonisation of information management with other members of the CMS family.
22. The Centre has worked with the CMS Secretariat in their preparations for the development of indicators of progress on the conservation of migratory species, in the context of the targets established for 2010 by the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
23. Throughout 2005, UNEP-WCMC will also assist the CMS Secretariat with the preparation, synthesis and analysis of reports due for submission by the Parties of the Convention for the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia (IOSEA), concluded under the auspices of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

24. The IOSEA Secretariat remains co-located with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) in the United Nations building in Bangkok. The administrative arrangements continue to run smoothly, and the support received from both UNEP/ROAP

and ESCAP in relation to administrative issues has been conducive to a very productive work environment.

25. In April 2005, the Secretariat will be moving to the 2nd floor of the UN building, as part of a general rearrangement of office space. Situated next to the recently rejuvenated East Asian Seas Regional Coordinating Unit, the new location should facilitate closer links to that body. It is hoped that the move can be accomplished with a minimum of disruption to regular activities and communications. Signatory States will be advised in due course of any necessary changes to telephone or fax numbers.
26. In addition, the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP/ROAP) has provided office space and essential administrative support, and is absorbing many of the Secretariat's basic operating costs. The affiliated UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (RRCAP) hosts the IOSEA website (www.ioseaturtles.org), and has always been responsive whenever basic maintenance was required. In essence, the Secretariat would not have been able to function effectively without this additional generous in-kind support.

UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project

27. The UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project's origins lie in a 25 year history of collaboration between the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and a network of scientists concerned about the conservation of the Siberian Crane and the wetlands the species depends upon. The CMS Memorandum of Understanding (CMS MoU) concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane provides an international policy framework for coordinating conservation measures for this Critically Endangered species, which meets biennially to review and prepare two-year Conservation Plans for the three known populations. At the third meeting of the parties to the MoU, it was decided that a large scale international project should be developed and submitted to GEF to support the implementation of the Conservation Plans.
28. This UNEP/GEF project was approved and started in March 2003. CMS is represented on the Steering Committee for the project, and one regional project staff based in Moscow (Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator (SCFC)) is co-financed by CMS and GEF, and coordinates CMS MoU activities with assistance from ICF staff. General information on the project can be obtained from its public website: www.scwp.info and the Siberian Crane flyway coordination website www.sibeflyway.org. Further information is also at Annex A of this paper.

The UNEP/Regional Seas Programme

29. The 5th Global Regional Seas Meeting agreed upon a set of global Strategic Directions for 2004-2007, in response to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, decisions adopted by the UNEP Governing Council at its 22nd session, Agenda 21, and the Millennium Declaration. These directions were further endorsed by the 6th Global RS meeting, December 2004. The directions are aimed at strengthening the Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) at the global level, while continuing to implement the action programmes of the individual RSPs as agreed upon by their governing bodies.
30. The Regional Seas Programme continues to collaborate with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), keeping in line with Strategic Direction 5: "Increase the use of Regional Seas as a platform for developing common regional objectives, promoting synergies and co-ordinated regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives, and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies and other international actors, as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment."

31. In 2004, the RSP and CMS developed a joint publication entitled: *Review of Small Cetaceans: Distribution, Behaviour, Migration and Threats*. Marine biologist Prof. Dr Boris Culik compiled this publication, which summarizes the available knowledge on the distribution, behavior and migration of toothed whales, as well as threats to which they are exposed. It was originally published on the web in 2001, so that readers could review the study. This has ensured the scientific validity of the final publication which should be available in printed form by the time of the 8th COP of CMS in November 2005
32. In 2004-5 the RSP, CMS, WWF and the Government of Monaco (as donor state) drew up an MoU to develop a conservation strategy for West African cetaceans, focussing on the manatee. The Agreement would also encompass the Convention for Cooperation in Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment (Abidjan Convention; 1984).. The MoU is expected to be finalized within the next few weeks.

The collaboration between RSP and CMS is mutually beneficial and remains an important partnership. Informal discussions are currently taking place about the possibility of revitalizing the UNEP Marine Mammal Action Plan as a Partnership in which CMS could take a major role.

B: UNON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO THE CONVENTION

33. CMS administrative issues

UNEP/UNON continue to work closely with the CMS Secretariat in the providing administrative services to the Secretariat by providing support and guidance on all administrative and financial issues. To this end, UNON is seconding a staff member to Bonn to assist CMS in financial issues and preparation for IMIS implementation; and UNEP/UNON also ploughs back some of the programme support cost to administrative services of CMS in form of personnel.

In line with the Governing Council decision 23/4, UNEP as the trustee, will explore possibilities for further improving the financial information flows to ensure that the convention secretariats have up-to-date and accurate information available to them at all times. In this regard, UNEP/UNON will install IMIS in Bonn this year, among other UNEP administered convention secretariats, to facility easy access to information.

34. Personnel Issues

As of March 2005, the following vacancies were advertised and the recruitment finalised:

- AEWAs Associate Technical Officer recruitment completed pending acceptance of offer by the successful candidate – Staff member on board.
- CMS Deputy Executive Secretary - recruitment completed and approved by the Executive Director – UNEP. Staff member on board.
- CMS Scientific and Technical Programme Officer upgrade to P4 completed and approved by the Executive Director – UNEP. Staff member on post.
- CMS Information and Capacity Building Officer - recruitment completed and approved by the Executive Director – UNEP. Staff member on board.

- CMS Inter-Agency Liaison Officer recruitment completed and approved by the Executive Director – UNEP. Staff member coming on board on April 1 2005.
- Recruitment of the Executive Secretary posts from P3 to P4 for EUROBATS, ASCOBANS and AEWA are in progress. Reclassification and advertising were completed.
- Recruitment of the Executive Secretary of CMS is in progress.

35. **Accounting and Financial Management Services**

There continues to be good co-operation and consultation between the Secretariat's administrative staff and their counterparts in UNON in this area. The Secretariat and/or UNON prepare all financial reports in consultation.

Invoicing for 2005 and prior years' contributions was completed on December 30, 2004. A website has been established for the Secretariat to have immediate access to the status of contributions.

The accounts for the year 2004 were closed by 15th March 2005, audit by the United Nations Board of External Auditors is scheduled for the month of April 2005.

UNEP-GEF SIBERIAN CRANE PROJECT

Progress and Activities in 2004

Regional Activities

1. The project's Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) staff provided assistance to the national teams in the four countries through a programme of country visits, remote assistance, development of documents, and monitoring and evaluation activities. ICF succeeded in obtaining co-financing through Luce Foundation support for environmental education activities at key sites in China; and the Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust funds for Mazandaran Crane Conservation Association activities in Iran. Kohler funds also support activities in several Siberian Crane Range States not participating in the UNEP/GEF project (i.e., Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan), ICF is also supporting an American graduate student's research study at Lake Poyang, linked to a GEF project activity.
2. The Fifth Meeting of the Range States to the CMS MoU (CMS MoU 5) was organized in Moscow in April 2004. Following the meeting, the SCFC and other ICF staff and collaborators finalized the biennial Conservation Plans for the three populations and are publishing and distributing a detailed report on the meeting.
3. The Siberian Crane Flyway Coordination Centre continues to be hosted by Moscow Zoo, linking efforts under the GEF project, CMS MoU and Crane Working Group of Eurasia. Work on strengthening Siberian Crane Flyway Coordination in East and West Asia included participation in an education/ecotourism workshop in Mongolia and NE Asia Crane Site Network meeting in Japan, and invitation of East and West Asian representatives to attend CMS MoU 5 in Moscow as well as a regional data management training course in Kazakhstan. Flyway coordination for West Asia was discussed at CMS MoU 5.
4. Significant effort was placed in the development of the Western/Central Asian Crane Site Network, including a symposium at the Global Waterbird Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland in April 2004. A concept paper for the site network at CMS MoU 5 was presented. Also at this meeting, an inter-sessional Working Group was established. The preliminary results of the Working Group were presented and discussed at the fourth GEF project Steering Committee meeting in Iran in December 2004, and will next be presented for approval and subsequent implementation at the Central Asian Flyway meeting planned for May 2005.
5. A centralized regional database system was designed and approved. This is managed by the SCFC with technical assistance from Wetlands International – a Russia Programme, which will provide a means of bringing together data from the four project countries, and making this information available to a wider audience.
6. A regional training workshop on data management was also held in Kostanay, Kazakhstan to obtain feedback on the database system as well as to train national contacts in data management, especially regarding monitoring migratory waterbirds.
7. Regional environmental awareness activities included the design and publication of stickers, buttons, and booklets on the Siberian Crane, and coordination of Crane Day Celebrations at 28 sites in Russia and Kazakhstan. The SCFC and public project websites were re-designed and improved (see above for addresses).

People's Republic of China

8. In the People's Republic of China, the State Forestry Administration is the National Executing Agency. Accordingly, the National Coordination Unit is based at the National Bird Banding Centre in Beijing. There are five project sites in China – Poyang Lake Basin (Jiangxi Province) and four sites on Songnen Plain in NE China: Zhalong (Heilongjiang), Xianghai (Jilin), Momoge (Jilin) and Keerqin (Inner Mongolia). Only preliminary activities are being conducted at Momoge and Keerqin at this stage. China has a heavy work programme, illustrated by the large number of consultancies (14 TORs approved) and subcontracts (13 SOWs approved) as well as 5 letters of agreement.

National Activities

9. Five training courses were held according to the updated national training strategy. The courses were based on the following:

Community co-management and development

Public education and interpretation

10. Other activities included the following:

Updating of the migratory species list in accordance with CMS requirements for State Forestry Administration (SFA) of China and translation of the whole document for SFA reference;

Supporting staff of the reserves along the cranes flyway to attend the Northeast Asian Crane Sites Network workshop held in Japan;

Assisting the Standing Committee of National People's Congress of China to put the revision of Wildlife Law into 2004 agenda;

Promoting the establishment of linkages with Songliao Water Commission and Jiangxi Integrated Office of Mountains, Rivers and Lakes – important for water resource management.

Assisting with the development of the national waterbird monitoring scheme for key sites along the Siberian Crane's migration route.

Assisting with the ground survey of large waterbirds in NE China.

11. The following site activities have been accomplished in the various activity areas:

Site Activities – Phase 1 sites; Poyang Lake Basin (PLB), Zhalong and Xianghai

Site Management Committees have been established for PLB and Xianghai, Community Co-Management Committee established for Zhalong and first meeting held, letters of agreement and members confirmed;

Provincial Advisory Group have been established for PLB and Xianghai and a first meeting held, letters of agreement and members confirmed;

Waterbird monitoring activities were conducted during autumn migration and wintering period applying consistent monitoring methods according to flyway monitoring strategy. This activity was co-financed;

TORs (4), SOWs (3), (LOAs (2) were prepared and approved by RCU; Activities included ecological research, provision of vehicles and equipment for a network of county forest bureaus

around the entire lake basin to strengthen management capacity, community participation action plan, design of a GIS for PLB, ground and aerial surveys of waterbirds, training in waterbird census, environmental education centre completion (using co-financing), summer camps for schoolchildren, etc. carried out;

Baseline data and information were collected for proposal to upgrade Nanjishan Nature Reserve to National Nature Reserve (NNR) level;

Master plan for Poyang NNR was improved and second draft revised at experts workshop.

Site Activities for Zhalong National Nature Reserve

Management regulations were revised and put into 2005 agenda of Heilongjiang People's Congress;

Linkage with related consultants and subcontractors were established to provide inputs to each other, including management plan, community participation plan, public education plan and water management plan;

Assessment of hydrological position at the site has been done as well as drafting of a water management plan to guide releases into the wetlands. A hydrological monitoring plan has been developed.

Site Activities for Xianghai

SOWs (5) and two letters of agreement were prepared and approved by RCU, including one for water co-management plan with Keerqin for improvement of management regulations, community participation planning and ecological research study;

Management regulations have been revised and submitted to Jilin Legal Affairs Bureau waiting for approval by Jilin People's Congress in 2005.

Site Activities for Keerqin

Site Management Committee was established and held first meeting using co-financing;

The first draft of water resources co-management plan with Xianghai was developed and revised at an experts workshop.

Site Activities for Momoge (Co-financed activities)

Ten million cubic meters of water was supplied from Nenjiang River to the wetlands, Public education center also established, Police station promoted to Police sub-Bureau and a Wildlife Rescue Center also established.

Islamic Republic of Iran

12. The UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project's National Coordination Unit is hosted by Iran's Department of Environment (DOE), with three project sites – Fereydoon Kenar Non Shooting

Area (Mazandaran Province), Bujagh National Park and Amirkelayeh/Rud Posht (Gilan Province). The main focus of activities at this stage is on Fereydoon Kenar. The following activities have thus been carried out;

13. Fereydoon Kenar Non Shooting Area (Mazandaran Province)

The 3rd Steering Committee meeting was held jointly with Ramsar on 4-8 December 2004 and hosted by DOE;

Waterbird monitoring database are being developed in cooperation with WI and BirdLife International;

Wetland inventory for all sites is being conducted with National Ramsar Implementation Bureau;

Site Management Committee has been established and the first meeting was held in late December 2004. Members of committee confirmed (TOR drafted);

Project goals have been presented to the meeting of administrative council of district (Fereydoon Kenar);

Signs marking boundary of new protected area have been erected;

Three new (official) guards have been employed using co-financing, and five guards from the local community continued their work with DOE on a fulltime basis, supported by co-financing and GEF funds;

Four new Trappers Associations were established and GEF funds made available for small grants and loans for approved activities;

New Trappers association members held their general assembly at local level identifying further plans;

First phase of a study assessing the catch of duck-trapping activities at the site was completed successfully and a technical report produced;

First phase of a contract to test sustainable agricultural methods based on the Farmer Field School methodology at the site was successfully completed, including drafting of guidelines for adoption of the approach. This work is being done in cooperation with the UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme in Iran;

Ten local schools participated in painting competition; 2 local universities were contacted for nomination of student projects with a relation to Siberian Crane issue at Fereydoon Kenar and Bujagh;

Membership of Site Management Committee agreed and a first meeting held;

More control on site through equipment, vehicles and staffing supported by the project;

Demarcation of southern parts of park boundary continued;

Employment of new guards from Kiyashahr Town (local community);

Agreement with local fishermen to fish for the Fisheries Organization;

Survey of satellite images to identify new images for purchase and inclusion in GIS;

Maintenance of released Siberian Crane in captivity;

Amir Kelayeh

More control on site and development of the guard station.

Republic of Kazakhstan

14. A series of meetings and negotiations finally resulted in the Forest and Hunting Committee (FHC) of the Ministry of Agriculture signing a MoU with ICF to join the full project on 2nd September 2004, after protracted delays due to re-organization of the responsible government agencies. The National Project Director was appointed by FHC, key staff identified and significant preparatory work was undertaken in collaboration with the RCU to accomplish formal project start up in January 2005, including signing of a financial and administrative services agreement between ICF, FHC and UNDP.

15. It should be mentioned that this project is closely linked to the UNDP/GEF Kazakhstan Wetlands Conservation Project, and will share a common Project Steering Committee to ensure good coordination of activities. There are four project sites in Kazakhstan, all located in Kostanay Province. Significant progress has been made on related national and site activities, including:

- Specially Protected Area (SPA) Law of the Republic of Kazakstan - new edition worked up and confirmed;
- Law of the CMS Convention for the Republic of Kazakhstan - joint Bill developed and the Government has submitted to CMS;
- Five new normative legal deeds for the wildlife, migratory species inclusion, management and conservation strengthening prepared and submitted to the Government;
- Training Seminar conducted for national SPA heads and specialists by FHC;
- The Governmental budget of 2005 for the Kazakhstan SPA system was submitted and adopted;
- Regional training workshop on “**Data management for cranes and other waterfowl**” was hosted in Kostanay (22 participants from 8 countries);
- National Report on the CMS MoU for the Siberian Crane conservation was presented at CMS MoU 5 and Conservation Plan for the next period prepared;
- Naurzum Reserve: Kulagol Lake included as additional territory in this reserve resulting in increase of size by 103,000 ha and new boundary demarcated;
- Kulykol Lake: Specially protected zone around the lake was increased from 2 to 6 km;
- Kulykol, Tontegir-Zhanshura Lakes: Autumn migration monitoring of globally endangered waterfowl species was carried out;
- “Crane Day” festivals were held at Naurzum (Karamende) & Urkash-Zharsor (Druzhba) project sites and in Kostanay City with special TV reporting;
- The “Siberian Crane” poster (artwork by Robert Bateman) was distributed at project sites;
- Kostanay Oblast level TV program and newspaper contained articles about the Siberian Crane and SCWP activity.

Russian Federation

16. The National Executing Agency for the Russian Federation is the All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection, under the Ministry for Natural Resources (MNR). National project coordination is undertaken from Moscow, with the assistance of the Association of Ecological Education and Programmes for national training and awareness activities. A West Siberian Coordination Unit in Salekhard is operated by the Sterkh Foundation and a Yakutia Coordination Unit in Yakutsk is operated by the Institute for Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone. There are four project sites in Russia: Kytalyk Resource Reservation in Yakutia and three in West Siberia – Kunovat River Basin, Konda-Alymka Rivers Basin and Tyumen-Kurgan Transboundary Territories. The following national activities have been carried out:

- The project team assisted with the organization of CMS MoU 5 in Moscow in April 2004, and was represented at CBD COP7, CITES COP13, Russian & Indian Convention on Migratory Birds, and US-Russia bilateral collaboration on the environment;
- National level consultant were appointed on harmonization of national and regional level legislation on nature protection, regional level consultants on same subject were also appointed;
- Plans for deployment of PTTs in West Siberia and Yakutia were discussed;
- National and regional publicity through newspapers, radio, TV and other media;
- **Crane Day Celebrations were held in all Project sites, and widely broadcasted on TV and radio programs in west Siberia Region and Yakutia Region. Work in schools (Salekhard, Gorki and Muzhi, Uvat, Armizon and Orlovo in West Siberia; Yakutsk, Berelyakh, Chokurdakh and also in Momsky, Verkheviluisky, Srednekolymsky, Ust'Maisky, Tomponsky Uluses – in Yakutia); were also carried out.**

West Siberia

- The Tyumen branch of MNR and Hunting Department Meetings were held in August, 2004. These meetings clarified perceived threats for Khanty and Mansysk (Konda – Alymka Rivers Basin site) and South of Tyumen Oblast (Tyumen-Kurgan Transboundary Territories).

Kunovat River Basin

- Stakeholders Meetings in Kunovat River Basin were held in June, 2004. Accordingly, Stakeholders Committee was established and held its first meeting;
- A survey of local communities was carried out in May 2004 to collect information about observations of the Siberian Crane, and other issues;

Konda-Alymka Rivers Basin

- A stakeholders Meeting in Konda and Alymka Rivers Basin was held in August, 2004. The stakeholders consequently, formed a Committee in KAM;
- An assessment of oil exploration threat was carried out during site visit in August 2004. A test well within the site was unsuccessful in finding sufficient oil for production. However, the threat remains. RCU opened correspondence with BP-TNK to try to establish cooperation regarding conservation and development opportunities in West Siberia.

Tyumen-Kurgan Transboundary Territories (TKTT)

- A stakeholders Meeting was held in Armizon District (August, 2004) – Stakeholders Committee for TKTT established;
- An assessment of hunting base development threat during site visit was done in August. The proposal currently lacks substance, but may re-appear in future. The project will try to protect key parts of the area through new protected area establishment, while accommodating hunting interests by leaving some areas open for hunting; Consultations with the site management committee remain important on this issue.

- The district hunting office is playing an important role in raising awareness of hunters about the Siberian Crane, including recording sightings by hunters.

Yakutia Activities

- A meeting was held in Yakutsk (September, 2004)- Sub-contract between ICF and IBPC was agreed and signed at this meeting;
- A meeting was also held in Yakutia Ministry of Natural Resources (September 2004). information about SCWP was distributed, first steps for establishing Stakeholders Committee were taken;
- Yakutia Regional Steering Committee met in November and December 2004;
- Participation in CMS MoU 5 meeting, data management training course in Kazakhstan, NE Asia Crane Site Network meeting in Japan were all carried out within this period;
- A questionnaire survey was conducted on observations of the Siberian Crane;

Kytalyk Resource Reserve

Membership of the site stakeholder committee was identified.