

Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding

NATIONAL REPORT (2007-2010)

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

Range State: IRAN
Agency or institution responsible for the preparation of this report: Department of Environment
List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input:
Memorandum in effect in Range States since (dd/mm/yyyy):
This report was last updated: (dd/mm/yyyy): 05.04.2010
Designated Focal Point (and full contact details): Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan, Ornithological Expert, Pardisan Eco-Park, Hemmat Highway, Department of Environment, Wildlife Bureau, Tehran, Iran, sadegh64@hotmail.com Tel: +98 21 88269293

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

Possible illegal poaching along the migration route, especially during spring migration (northward) and also autumn migration (southward).

Poisoning (including lead poisoning)

Should not be a major threat

Power lines

Possible but with a very low possibility (we do not have such mortality report yet).

DISTURBANCE (by otherwise legal activities)

Hunting

Possible, through the mistake shooting (those hunters who cannot identify the bird)

Fishing

- Tourism

Arrival of tourists and visitors to the trapping areas of Fereydoon Kenar is not in favor of trappers (which they need a quiet condition for trapping).

- Agriculture

Change of farming method and plant cultivation could be a potential threat (as the cranes are depended to the flooded condition on harvested rice paddies), as well, there is a general risk through the agrochemical overuse which make the area and crops unsafe for users

- Other forms of disturbance

Bird is very expensive and rare!! Good idea to have the last one!!!

HABITAT DEGRADATION

- Water diversion

Water (flooded condition) is a critical issue in the time of arrival for cranes.

- Wetlands drainage and conversion

With the same effects as described in the above box.

- Oil and gas development

- Pollutants

Intensive agrochemicals use for rice farming.

- Other threats (please specify and describe)

Habitat reduction due to the urban development should be the main issue.

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.

According to lesson learned from the SCWP, work with local communities is very effective. The priority should give to the establishment of Site Management Committees. Then we should have an approved management plan to implement by the mentioned committees. Participation of local communities to legal conservation is necessary. As results of SCWP shows, the best results is depends to a such participation (like official employment, partnership, etc.). Simple brochures describing Siberian Crane should be important tool for public awareness.

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 plans:

- 1. To phase out end of season shoot out is a best example. It was a general agreement between trappers and DoE. Since 2003 this destructive activity has been banned. It was a clear example of Win-Win operation.**
- 2. To establish the FDK Non shooting area in 2003, which this is very effective to reduce illegal shooting.**
- 3. Increase penalty rate for killing, which increased from 250\$ to 10,000\$.**

Future plans:

Effective participation of local hunters to the Site Management Committee.

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.

A massive bird trapping in the wintering areas (Fereydoon Kenar), especially, night netting. Fortunately, there are no records of damage caused by these activities, but this issue is a potential threat for the released birds which are not familiar with such threats.

Although we tried to make a safe wintering are for cranes but, still there is illegal

shooting throughout of migration route within the country (as mentioned in 1.1).

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

The Siberian crane is in top list of the protected species, with the highest fine for illegal shooting (according to the Environmental Law Book).

Also CITES regulations are applied for all species which are include in the CITES appendixes.

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).

The judiciary enforces all related laws on violations which are reported by the Department of Environment.

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 mentioned above, increase of illegal shooting penalty rate.**

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.

Environmental knowledge of judiciary authorities should be improved.

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.

There was no Siberian Crane record for 2009-2010 wintering season. Hopefully Siberian crane arrive in 2010-2011.

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:

Most of our monitoring is based on ground survey, using binocular and telescope.

Future plans:

To cover any potential reports of sighting (like all sightings reported received from Azerbaijani colleagues). Continue cooperation with SCFC on information exchange and also tracking of Siberian cranes which released within the flyway. A bilateral agreement signed by Iranian and Russian authorities could be a basic for further cooperation.

b) Air survey YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities:

There was an air survey in the past to find any possible unidentified wintering areas.

Future plans:

No plan for now. No more aerial surveys needed because a good coverage of mid-winter census.

c) Counts YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities:

Direct counting (because the territory is small) in Fereydoon Kenar. As well, two sites (FDK & Bujagh are cover by the annual Mid-winter Censuses.

Future plans:

Count will be done if Siberian Crane/s will be arrived.

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

Past activities:

We asked local people in the potential areas through the direct interview.

Future plans:

The same with above if some suspected reports arrive. Showing and distribution of Siberian Crane photos could be helpful.

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?

As mentioned above this monitoring was based on Mid-winter Census.

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: **Historically, we released a total number of 10 captive bred Sibes which 4 of them were fixed by PTT. In order to determin the problems we visited the last points which signals stopped. Only one three of these PTTs worked after spring migration, and only one of them stopped in Iran.**

Future plans:

It's depends to PTT data which attach by Russian side.

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Color banding YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **All of released birds have been fixed with color bands and some of them have been sighted in Russia.**

Future plans: **In case of any further releases.**

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **We surveyed any potential sites which we had any reports on like survey of Iran-Turkmenistan-Afghanistan border which Russians had some sign of PTT signals.**

Future plans: **Depends on any new PTT or sighting reports.**

f) Other reports YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **Some reports by Azerbaijani colleagues, but with no accurate coordinate's data. Also we considered some local reports which received by locals but most of them were identification mistake.**

Future plans

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

Past activities

Future plans:

To call all interested NGO's for more consider the potential areas.

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no sightings)

Past activities: **Some reports by Azerbaijani colleagues, but with no accurate coordinate's data. Also we considered some local reports which received by locals but most of them were identification mistake.**

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: **A joint paper (by Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan , Crawford Prentice & Elena Ilyashenko) has been published by OSME (Ornithological Society of Middle East).**

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: **As SCWP we contributed to the data base by sending basic information to the database operator (Misha), and also by sending regular information to the SCFC (mainly on population, date of arrival and departure,...)**

Future plans: **We urge that the database should be base on online and any member, in anytime could post their own records.**

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: **We highlighted two project sites as AI's hotspots and a good sampling carried out in FDK in 2005. Also we made an AI brochure and distributed to the sites.**

Future plans: **Now we have a passive surveillance and active surveillance is planned in case of outbreak.**

2.4. Evaluate efficacy and application of research/monitoring

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

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

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

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

Through the SCWP, research results incorporate to the FDK Management Plan. Research results could be including of scientific data and also local knowledge. It was amazing to have a such combination of data to develop Management Plan.

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

Since 1996 a total number of 10 captive bred chicks have been released to the Fereydoon Kenar. Six of them jointed wild cranes and started migration. One of them reached to the breeding grounds, One stopped in Dagestan, and the last one stopped around the Bujagh National Park. One PTT stopped just in start time of migration. Two of them did not have PTT. No released bird returned to the wintering grounds!!!

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

According to the experiences, the most important problem is that no released birds return to the wintering grounds. We suspect if most of birds reach to the breeding areas (as according to the PTT data, only one released bird completed the journey). This could cause by essence captive breeding, as they have no enough strong for a such long journey. We should use parent reared chicks, as well as, we should import and release birds at least 4 moths prior to the release. Also, all of release birds should be fixed with PTT.

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 was a colour banding project carried out during 1977-1979 in south central of Iran (Arjan & Parishen) held by ICF and Department of Environment. Logic was to find the breeding area of the Eurasian Crane and put Siberian Crane into this population (cross fostering) and finally establish a new wintering area. But, in the same year (1979) the wintering population has been discovered. Also the idea of cross fostering method phased out by ICF.**

Future plans: **We identified our wintering areas of the Eurasian cranes in Iran with a good number. But, those areas are mainly grassland and cultivated areas, Since the Siberian crane is a more aquatic depended bird, the question is whether these areas are suitable for this species or no? Anyway, the condition of establishment of new wintering areas amongst of the Eurasian Cranes ground is available.**

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

a) Ground survey

Past activities: **According to the Mid-winter Census results.**

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: **Bujagh National Park has been selected as a potential site for the further releases. This site is designated as a “West Central Asian Siberian Crane Site Network”. The site is within the western flyway, but the challenge is that we do not have a wild population anymore. Release does not have any meaning, because, the released birds do not have a leader/s for spring migration!!**

Future plans: **Hang glider method is an option but depends on possibility.**

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: **Siberian crane and Eurasian Crane does not have the same migration route, but, we know the stopover and wintering grounds of Eurasian Cranes well.**

Future plans

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

c) Color banding. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **As mentioned during 1978-1979 colour banding has shown the breeding areas of Eurasian cranes in Russia, but, the information is very old.**

Future plans

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **According to the Mid-winter Census results.**

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.

According to the SCWP: 1. Establishment of FDK Site Management Committee, which is including all related stakeholders in the area. 2. Establishment of Trapper associations, which is the important tool to control of the site and also to develop and improve the alternative livelihood, 3. Establishment of local NGOs to raise awareness amongst local people.

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: A Non-Shooting Area (in FDK) has been established in collaboration with duck trappers and DoE. This was the first site establishment through participatory approach in country. Legal designation has been done by DoE with legal protection, while local support and maintenance is done by local communities. Most of gourds hired from local communities who are very supportive and familiar with the site. Also end of season shoot-out has been phased out by cooperation of locals.

Future plans: **Finalization and sign the prepared FDK Management Plan is planned for the future.**

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: **As mentioned above, a participatory management plan has been prepared for FDK. It was done by using international consultant and within two training workshop on how to develop a management plan for DoE experts and also representatives of local communities. The draft has been reviewed by the site management committee and amended by national and also international consultant.**

Future plans: **At this time the final version of the management plan including the local people comments has been prepared and is ready to present to the provincial authorities for last comments and preparation of official signature.**

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: **There are several project for the support of management plan like: Livelihood of local people project done by the national consultant, Wetlands monitoring Plan, Eco-agricultural Guidelines, GIS project, Guard training workshops, awareness needs analysis, etc.. The results of these projects have been incorporated to the management plan text and used for proposed action plans.**

Future plans: **To use the results of waterbird census results into the management plan.**

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: **Eco-agricultural projects should be a good example. The results show how to develop the biological methods in current unsafe farming activities.**

Future plans: **Incorporate the waterbird monitoring analysis results into the management plan.**

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.

Yes, basically, this monitor by the rice farmers accurately, and in case of any water shortage (especially, during beginning of autumn migration) they ask DoE for assistance.

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **Many training and other capacity building activities have been undertaken at Fereydoon Kenar and Bujagh National Park including: Livelihood of local people project done by the national consultant, Wetlands monitoring Plan (for experts), Eco-agricultural Guidelines (for locals), GIS training (for experts), Guard training workshops (for local guards), Participatory management workshops for the local and governmental staff, awareness raising campaigns,...**

Future plans:

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

Past activities: **Designation of FDK Ramsar Site and also expansion of Bujagh National park, establishment of site management committees.**

Future plans:

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: **There are many articles posted on IRNA (Iranian National News Agency), which other broadcasting agencies use from its news as a source. Sadegh had an interview with TV-Channel one in January 2010 with subject of Siberian Crane.**

Future plans

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: **A Siberian Crane stamp has been published and many pieces purchased and widely disseminated between the interested persons and organizations. Various designs of brochures, pen, notebook, stickers, T-shirts, pins, calendar, posters, etc, have been produced and disseminated through the SCWP.**

Future plans

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: **Annual Crane Celebration. Although this event is designed for students, but many other groups like local people, trappers and perhaps hunters have attended to the meeting.**

Future plans: **Incorporate “World Migratory Bird Day” and “Crane Celebration”. This may absorb more audience to the meeting.**

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 best audiences are students. They will build the future of natural resources. We should try to distribute (as much as possible) the educational and promotional materials, because these materials effectively help awareness rising. Of course, Siberian Crane poster, card, key holder and pen can effectively reach the message to a wide group on Sib. Also the last mentioned materials could help people to recognize species from other similar species.

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:

Assessment of previous “World Migratory Bird Day” shows this event can involve more people to the bird events, counting and reporting.

Future plans:

Work towards to declare a “National Bird Day”, as this is the best tool to widen this event to all parts of country.

Also following initiatives could be scope of further activities as:

- ▶ **Providing guidelines for raising the awareness of the key stakeholders, target groups and audience at national, provincial and site levels about the Project**
- ▶ **Contributing to achievement of sustainable change of attitude among the stakeholders at national, provincial and site levels**
- ▶ **Developing practical action plans for sound implementation and monitoring the activities recommended by the Awareness Strategy**

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: **Absence of Siberian Crane has a negative effect on this issue. Justification is very difficult for fund raising.**

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: **Good example of these type of activities through the SCWP, like establishment of Trappers Associations with their own trust funds, Eco-Agricultural projects. For case of trust funds, we should provide the core money (e.g. 50% of total) and better to start with loan system (e.g. 2 years). A monthly deposit is mandatory for improve core money. A public interest in end of fiscal year should be good idea.**

Future plans: **Further plan is a challenge, because the project ended. We hope those mentioned trust funds have enough capacity to maintain and improve.**

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.

Department of environment is responsible for coordinating Siberian Crane conservation and management policy.

Administrative focal point: Dr. Mohammad Bagher **Sadough**, Deputy Head for Natural Environment & biodiversity Division, Pardisan Eco-Park, Hemmat Highway, Department of Environment, Wildlife Bureau, Tehran, Iran. E.mail: info@environment.ir
Tel: +98 21 88269912 & 13

Technical focal point: Mr. Sadegh **Sadeghi Zadegan**, Ornithological Expert, Pardisan Eco-Park, Hemmat Highway, Department of Environment, Wildlife Bureau, Tehran, Iran, sadegh64@hotmail.com Tel: +98 21 88269293

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.

DoE is the only government agency in country responsible for conservation and management of Siberian Cranes and their habitats. The responsibility is not given for Siberian Cranes but for all parts of the biodiversity. Anyway, Siberian Crane listed as an endangered bird and systemically is under highest attention and regulations.

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 .

SCWP is flagged for a such participation, of course. Iran became a CMS member in 2008. A new bilateral agreement between DoE and Russian Environment Ministry has been signed in early 2010. The English text will be provided.

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

- 1. To provide captive bred Siberian Cranes for education and further releases**
- 2. To receive on-time information on migration time and directions**
- 3. To provide satellite devices (PTT)**
- 4. Training especially new techniques**
- 5. Mutual expert visits on sites and collaborative projects**

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: **These activities are based on personal capacity, like Sadegh is a member of Crane Working Group of Eurasia.**

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.

Ordinary communication with SCFC.

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: As described in 6.1.5, these activities are based on personal capacity, like Sadegh is a member of Eurasian Crane Working Group, or he can communicate directly with each range state.

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.

Normally, this is based on official demands foreign side, like this report. There is not any scheduled timetable for sending of these information.

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.

1. Fereydoon Kenar Ramsar Site in Mazandaran Province

2. Bujagh National Park in Gilan Province

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

No

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: Introduction and publicize of CAF initiative should be priority, CAF indirectly benefited from activities carrying out by the other activities like SCWP, CMS, WSACN.

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.

As usual equipment should be necessary. As well more guarding and law enforcement are required. Also, training of experts should have priority.

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: **As described in the previous boxes, many this type of activities have been taken through the SCWP. Furthermore, we had some student support (Msc thesis) too.**

Future plans: **Apply for Ramsar SGP is considering for the coming year.**

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

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).

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.

As DoE is responsible for the Siberian Crane MoU implementation