

1.6. Criterion and Qualifiers for Site Selection¹

For site selection, attention will be focused on sites important for the conservation, recovery and reintroduction of the Siberian Crane, including sites that are also important for other migratory cranes and waterbirds. Please see the Site Information Sheet (Annex 1) and Explanatory Notes (Annex 2) for details.

Criterion 1 and its four temporal sub-criteria are designed to ensure that governments will select sites based on their current and past importance for Siberian Cranes.

The **Qualifiers** give an indication of the *additional importance* for other cranes and waterbirds of sites that have been selected primarily because of their importance for Siberian Cranes. They are also important to promote the future integration of the WCASN into the larger proposed waterbird site network for the Central Asia Flyway under the CMS *Central Asian Flyway Action Plan for the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats*.

The criteria and qualifiers are adapted from selected criteria to nominate Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Guidance for applying the Ramsar criteria can be found in the Convention's document: Ramsar Convention Handbook #7: Designating Ramsar Sites²

A. **CRITERION 1:** Site's Importance for Siberian Cranes

Temporal Sub-criteria for the Siberian Crane: A site must meet one of the following sub-criteria (listed in order of importance). Please tick only ONE of the following boxes:

- Sub-criterion 1.1:** Siberian Crane(s) were recorded at the site at least five times during the last 10 years. This should not include records within the same season or repeated sightings of the same individual birds.
- Sub-criterion 1.2:** The site has held one or more Siberian Cranes during the last 50 years, but there are less than five records during the 10 last years.
- Sub-criterion 1.3:** The site is historical habitat of the Siberian Crane, but there are less than five records during the last 50 years.
- Sub-criterion 1.4:** There are no records of Siberian Crane at a site, but it is considered to contain appropriate habitat for the species (wide expanses of shallow water containing appropriate food resources, and with low levels of disturbance) and it is suitable for release and reintroduction projects (e.g., safety of the site is secured, a management regime is in place, etc.).

B. **QUALIFIER 1:** Site's importance for other crane species

- Please tick this box if the site meets the following qualification:
The site is important for other crane species when it is known to support a total of 25 or more migratory cranes (which can be of more than one species) at any stage of their life cycle (e.g., breeding, migration stop-

¹ As agreed by the Meeting to Endorse the Proposed Western/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Cranes (and other waterbirds) (New Delhi, 2005), with minor editorial revisions.

² Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2004. Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands. 2nd Edition. Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland. Can be downloaded free from www.ramsar.org.

over (staging), non-breeding birds (wintering), etc.).

C. **QUALIFIER 2:** Site's importance for other waterbird species

Please tick ANY of the following boxes that apply:

- Sub-qualifier 2.1:** The site regularly supports 20,000 or more migratory waterbirds during migration periods.
- Sub-qualifier 2.2:** The site regularly supports 5,000 or more migratory waterbirds or 0.25% of a migratory waterbird population on a single count during a single migration period.
- Sub-qualifier 2.3:** The site regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of migratory waterbird.
- Sub-qualifier 2.4:** The site supports migratory waterbird species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.