

## Suggested Procedure for Network Site Dedication Ceremonies

### 1. Purpose of the Dedication Ceremonies

Sites are nominated for inclusion in the WCASN by the national agency responsible for administering the CMS MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane. Following review by the Site Network Review Working Group, they are approved by the Site Network Committee and certificates are issued by the CMS Secretariat. The main purpose of the Network Site Dedication Ceremony is to provide formal recognition of a site's status as part of this international network under the CMS MoU at local level. In addition, Network Site Dedication Ceremonies can be used as a means of attracting publicity about the conservation values of sites and their role as part of an international network of sites supporting migratory waterbird populations. Similarly, they provide a way of raising awareness of local stakeholders of the values of sites and shared responsibilities for the management and/or sustainable use of these sites.

### 2. Suggested Participation

#### **Organizers**

Site Dedication Ceremonies should be organized by the local site management authority in cooperation with the national agency responsible for administering the CMS MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane. Other key stakeholders may also collaborate in organizing the event.

#### **Participants**

##### *International*

The organizers should liaise with the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator at an early stage to arrange for participation of a Site Network Committee member at the Dedication Ceremony as far as possible..

##### *National*

- Senior representative of the national agency responsible for administering the CMS MoU concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane
- Representatives of other national government agencies with an interest in the site or biodiversity conservation
- Representatives of national environmental NGOs with an interest in the site or biodiversity conservation
- Popular figures, national experts, etc with an identified interest

##### *Local*

- Senior representative of the local site management agency
- Senior representative of the local government administration
- Key stakeholders (this can include: political representatives, religious leaders, local government agencies, local NGOs, community representatives, business interests, local universities and schools, etc.)

##### *Media*

As far as possible, the national and local media should be invited to cover the event (newspapers, TV, radio, specialist magazines, etc)

### 3. Programme

The main focus of the Site Dedication Ceremony should be the official presentation of the WCASN Site Certificate to the local management authority.

Beyond that the programme should be tailored to suit local circumstances. Some possibilities include:

- Speeches by VIPs & other invited guests
- Talks, presentations or videos on the conservation of Siberian Crane and other migratory waterbirds, including description of the WCASN

- Talks, presentations or videos on the conservation values of the site
- A site visit including a commentary by a suitable expert
- Local cultural performances (songs, dances, music, etc)
- Exhibitions of art, photographs, posters, etc
- Activities for children and youth (art competitions, games, site exploration, etc)

#### **4. Follow up**

The organizers are requested to send reports or articles on Site Dedication Ceremonies (including digital photographs) to the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator for use in international newsletters and websites related to the WCASN and CMS MoU.

Local stakeholders should be reminded of the international status of the site during communications, education and awareness programmes, and through news stories concerning Siberian Cranes at the sites or elsewhere in the flyway.