

WCASN Action Plan for 2010-2012

The Action Plan for Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds (WCASN) forms a subset of actions under the overall Siberian Crane MoU Conservation Plans and it is presented as part of the Conservation Plans for western and central populations.

The actions will be focused on the designated sites, supporting new nominations, and regional actions to service the site network such as website, sharing information, raising funds, etc. The Action Plan is expected to focus on activities in the six countries (Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), that have already designated sites as well as on new sites of other Range States of western and central populations which can be designated during Siberian Crane MoU implementation period from 2010 to 2012.

Objectives and Specific Activities	Countries	WCASN Sites	Confirmed Funding Sources	Proposed Funding Sources
Objective I: Reduce mortality				
1.2. Strengthen and improve enforcement of legislation for crane protection				
<p>Implement key activities from Hunting Strategy developed and approved under the MoU as outlined below:</p> <p>a) Reduce uncontrolled hunting and poaching through publication and distribution of awareness materials (poster, booklets, and video). Identify key audiences and messages to promote needed changes in behavior (legislation, penalties for poaching, and species identification). Share these materials through national inspection services, hunting and fishing societies and in public sites (markets, shops, clubs, clinics, administration buildings, schools and colleges, and NGOs)</p> <p>b) Reviews current waterbirds harvesting practices, national policies, legal frameworks and their conservation implications</p> <p>c) Develop and promote regional guidelines for sustainable waterbirds harvesting and Code of Conduct for hunters for national adaptation and use</p> <p>d) Conduct activities at demonstration sites with significant hunting issues including community participation, sustainable livelihoods and awareness raising</p>	<p>KZ, TU, UZ</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>To be determined</p>	<p>KZ: Naurzum Lake System, Zharsor-Urkash Lake System, Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura Lake System, Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System, Ural Delta and Nearest Caspian Sea Coastal Zone</p> <p>TU: Durnaly</p> <p>UZ: Termez</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>To be determined</p>	<p>MBZ Species Conservation Fund</p>	<p>To be included new GEF proposal under development</p>

Objectives and Specific Activities	Countries	WCASN Sites	Confirmed Funding Sources	Proposed Funding Sources
Objective II: Monitoring and research				
2.1. Monitor and study the Siberian Crane and its habitat				
<p>1. Strengthen/establish regular monitoring of cranes and other waterbirds at WCASN sites to ensure updated knowledge of crane usage, habitat needs and conservation issues</p> <p>2. Provide monitoring information to the Siberian Crane database, International Waterbirds Census and IBA databases</p>	<p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p>	<p>All designated sites and all potentially important sites</p> <p>All designated sites and all potentially important sites</p>		
Objective III: Increase numbers and genetic diversity				
3.1. Promote recovery of the Siberian Crane populations				
<p>1. Support Flight of Hope Project activities approved by international planning group established under MoU for reintroduction programme on recovery of Western/Central Asian population</p>	<p>KZ, UZ (in cooperation with RU)</p>	<p>KZ: Naurzum Lake System UZ: Termez</p>		
3.2. Develop safe migration routes for Siberian Cranes based on those used by Eurasian Cranes				
<p>1. Conduct census of cranes and other waterbirds during migration and at wintering grounds as far as possible at WCASN sites</p> <p>2. Study relationship between waterbirds distribution, habitat condition and climate change, as a basis for proposing adaptation measures to reduce the vulnerability of regional waterbirds populations.</p>	<p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p>	<p>All designated sites and all potentially important sites</p> <p>All designated sites and all potentially important sites</p>		
Objective IV: Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane				
4.1. Protect and manage habitats of importance for the Siberian Crane				
<p>1. Build capacity for effective site management and financial sustainability through development and implementation of site management plans, incorporating climate change adaptation measures</p> <p>2. Review water management needs to sustain wetlands and local communities</p>	<p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p>	<p>Selected demonstration sites</p> <p>Selected demonstration sites</p>		<p>To be included new GEF proposal under development</p>

Objectives and Specific Activities	Countries	WCASN Sites	Confirmed Funding Sources	Proposed Funding Sources
Objective V: Increase public awareness and ecological education				
5.1. Share information on Siberian Crane conservation efforts				
Publicize information on the Siberian Crane conservation efforts in mass media, public and scientific magazines	All involved countries	All designated sites		
5.2. Community involvement				
<p>1. Organize mass education and public awareness events (Crane Celebration, World Migratory Bird Day, World Wetlands Day) at WCASN sites</p> <p>2. Organize lectures and discussions with key stakeholders including hunters, frontier guards and other group of local people near WCASN sites about conservation of cranes and other waterbirds and wetlands</p> <p>3. Increase public awareness through involving local people in waterbirds and habitat monitoring</p> <p>4. Develop methods on involving volunteers in crane count and waterbirds monitoring by adapting ICF, WI, and BirdLife International experiences to local communities</p> <p>5. Implement young scholar programmes and competitions to mentor and empower promising young students</p>	<p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p>	<p>All designated sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p>	<p>MBZ Species Conservation Fund</p>	
Objective VI: Enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange				
6.1. Improve international cooperation and information exchange				
<p>1. Publish information in CWGE Newsletter, ICF Bugle and other international publications</p> <p>2. Include list of new publications in regional newsletters</p> <p>3. Share successful examples (i.e. Sterkh Foundation) of awareness raising activities undertaken by countries, network sites, local NGOs</p> <p>4. Upload information about activities and news at WCASN sites to WCASN webpage</p>	<p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries</p> <p>All involved countries, other Range States</p> <p>All involved countries</p>	<p>Selected demonstration sites</p> <p>All designated sites</p> <p>WCASN sites, other key sites, local NGOs</p> <p>All designated sites</p>		<p>To be included new GEF proposal under development</p>

Objectives and Specific Activities	Countries	WCASN Sites	Confirmed Funding Sources	Proposed Funding Sources
Objective VI: Enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange				
6.2. Development of the Western/Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and other waterbirds				
<p>1. Prepare and submit to CMS Secretariat documents for nomination of proposed sites</p> <p>2. Review nominations submitted by countries and give recommendations to Committee on Site Nomination</p> <p>3. Evaluate proposals of potential site in Afghanistan – Amudaria Valley near the border with Uzbekistan</p> <p>4. Investigate possibility to create an international transboundary site in the border region between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan in the Amudaria Valley</p>	<p>AF, AZ, IN, KZ, RU, TU, UZ</p> <p>WCASN RWG</p> <p>AF</p> <p>AF, TU, UZ</p>	<p>AF: Ab-i-Estada and Dashte-Nawar AZ: Shirvan National Park and Gyzyl-Aghach Nature Reserve IN: Etawah-Mainpuri KZ: Sarykopa, Irgiz-Turgai, Kurgaljino RU: Kunovat, Kondo-Alymka, Belozerskiy and Agrakhan TU: Tallymerjen & Kelif-Zeyit UZ: Tallymjien</p> <p>AF: Amudaria Valley</p> <p>AF: Amudaria Valley (proposed) TU: Tallymerjen & Kelif-Zeit (proposed for nomination) UZ: Termez (designated)</p>		
6.4. Capacity building				
<p>Promote and organise regional and national training workshops on wetland protected area management and monitoring, business planning, climate change adaptation, water management and community participation for network sites</p>	<p>All involved countries</p>	<p>All designated sites</p>		
6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation				
<p>1. Identify existing projects and programmes that are or could support the WCASN sites</p> <p>2. Secure support from national or regional governments for finance (co-finance) support priority activities</p>	<p>All involved countries</p>	<p>All designated sites with support from CMS, ICF, and WI</p>		<p>WWF Forever Indus program</p>

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Objective VI: Enhance national and international cooperation and information exchange				
6.5. Raise funds to support a comprehensive conservation programme supporting MoU implementation				
<p>3. Submit grant applications to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hunting strategy (Part GEF, To Be Determined (TBD)) b. Monitoring of cranes and other waterbirds at WCASN sites (TBD) c. Research on relationship between waterbirds distribution, habitat condition and climate change (GEF) d. Support "Flight of Hope" Project (TBD) e. Review water management needs to sustain wetlands and local communities (GEF?) f. Regional and national training workshops held on wetland protected area management and monitoring, business planning, climate change adaptation, water management and community participation for network site management (GEF) g. CEPA activities including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. organizing mass education and public awareness events (TBD) ii. young scholars program (GEF) 	CMS, ICF, WI with involved countries	All designated sites		