

Agenda Item 7.4: Future activities under the Western/Central Asian Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds

60. Ms. Elena Ilyashenko, SCFC, reported on activities under the WCASN (document UNEP/CMS/SC-7/9) and presented the draft WCASN Action Plan (AP) (document UNEP/CMS/SC-7/7), which covered a subset of actions under the overall Conservation Plans. Since the official designation of 10 sites in five countries during the last MOS6 in Kazakhstan in May 2007, only Pakistan submitted nomination documents for two sites: the Thanedar Wala Game Refuge and Taunsa Barrage. Turkmenistan and Russia had encountered administrative obstacles in the nomination process due to a re-organization of the local administration. Uzbekistan had proposed one and Kazakhstan three more sites for inclusion in the shadow list of the WCASN. Since the MOS6 in Kazakhstan, progress was made on improving the protection of a number of WCASN sites. Furthermore, public awareness campaigns were implemented within the framework of the SCWP. All Siberian Crane Range States were involved in the preparation of the "Atlas of Key Sites for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds in Western/Central Asia" in Russian and English languages. This publication was available in printed form and on CD.

61. The WCASN Action Plan was focusing on the designated sites in six countries (Iran, India, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), on supporting new nominations, and on regional actions to service the site network such as website development, information sharing, fundraising, etc.

62. Participants discussed the procedure to nominate sites for WCASN. The Chair proposed that Range States should be reminded to designate sites regularly. He also noted the division between Federal and Provincial government responsibilities and communications. This is often a bottleneck. Federal agencies imposed obligations. Provincial agencies had management responsibility and were worried about financial implications. Provincial agencies are happy if federal agencies impose obligations and then provide financial support. Azerbaijan requested to simplify the procedure of nomination and the delegate was requested to give specific suggestions on this issue.