

Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding

NATIONAL REPORTS (2007-2010)

KAZAKHSTAN

GENERAL INFORMATION

Range State: KAZAKHSTAN
Agency or institution responsible for the preparation of this report Forest and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture
List any other agencies, institutions, or NGOs that have provided input: Naurzum State Nature Reserve; Project FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF
Memorandum in effect in Range States since (dd/mm/yyyy):
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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

The potential threat is present, because poaching on cranes exists in some sites of their concentration in the migratory period. In particular in the area around of the Zharsor-Urkash system of lakes. There is information that in 2001 during autumn migration, hunters seeing in pair Siberian Cranes in the flock of Eurasian cranes, tried to shoot them.

- Poisoning (including lead poisoning)

The level of threat is low. In spring Siberian Cranes flight when the work on agriculture fields is not yet conducted. In the period of autumn migration Siberian Cranes stopover only on a lakes, the level of contamination of which on the whole in the north regions of Kazakhstan is very slight. Situation in oil-extracting areas in North Caspian Region and Aktiybinsk Region needs the special study.

- Power lines

The level of threat is low. Accidents of collision of cranes with the lines of electricity transmissions not are known. Most of stopover lakes of Siberian Cranes are located far from settlements and their infrastructure, including the lines of electricity transmissions.

DISTURBANCE (by otherwise legal activities)

- Hunting

The level of threat is high. Lakes of North Kazakhstan are the popular place of hunting on geese and other waterfowls, attracting not only local hunters but also from large cities from other regions: Àstana, Karaganda, Kokchetav, Dzhezkazgan and other. Hunts is take place during same time with migration period of Siberian Cranes - usually from the last Saturday of August or the first Saturday of September and to the end of migration of waterfowls at the beginning of November. Last years water surface and shore of many from most essential lakes which were identified as key for waterfowls, is declared by closed for shooting.

- Fishing

The level of threat is middle. Actually for some lakes, from a number those, which are stopover sites for Siberian Cranes, and where the intensive commercial or amateur fishing is conducted. In Kostanay Region it is Tiuntiugur Lake and Sunkebay Lake. Applicably in periods of high and middle water level in lakes, while in periods of low level of water fish in these lakes disappears and fishing is not conducted.

- Tourism

This threat is absent presently. In connection with remoteness stopover lakes from cities and absence of good roads and other infrastructure, tourism presently along the whole length of migratory route not is developed.

- Agriculture

The level of threat is middle. Basic source of disturbance is shepherds which are together with dogs graze cattle on a coast of lakes. The former fields for growing of wheat, existing in soviet times in a direct closeness around lakes, presently are not used. In addition, on terms springs work is conducted after completion of migration of waterfowls, including Siberian Cranes. On some lakes watering vegetable gardens are the considerable factor of disturbance.

- Other forms of disturbance

The additional forms of disturbance are presently absent. In the near future can arise up in connection with the plans of development of mining in the Kamisty district.

HABITAT DEGRADATION

- Water diversion

The level of threat is high. The hydrological regime of a lakes of steppe area of Kazakhstan is very unstable, as the receipt of water is provided only due to a seasonal spring flow, and is characterized by alternation of periods of high level of filling by water and periods of shallow. Therefore all system is extremely sensible to violations in the integrity of water basin like ploughed on catchment areas, dams of riverbed and withdrawal of water that can result in shallow of lakes to the complete drying up in separate years. The system of water consumption existing from soviet times is extremely ineffective. So, for example, the number of the created waters reservoirs and volume of the detained water in the basin of Naurzum lakes repeatedly exceeds necessities and is outlaid on evaporation and filtration. The dams are not satisfy the technical requirements, that conduces to erosion and silting-up of riverbed, the present alternative sources of water are not used.

- Wetlands drainage and conversion

Not actually

- Oil and gas development

Question of influence of oil and gas development on waters ecosystem in North Caspian Region and in the Aktyubinsk Region requires the special study.

- Pollutants

The level of threat is low. Agriculture farms are basic source of pollution in an area of migration of Siberian Crane in North Kazakhstan therefore this threat is not actual here presently. In a future, with growth of agricultural production and using chemicals, the threat possibly will increase. In Western Kazakhstan this question requires additional research.

- Other threats (please specify and describe)

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.

For improvement of hydrological regime of lakes and quality of water, optimizations of withdrawal of water in accordance with necessities and observance of requirements of nature protection legislation in Kazakhstan are initiated creation of public Basin Council and conclusion of Basin agreement on separate rivers or waters systems with involving of

all interested parties. This norm is included in water Code of Kazakhstan. The work on this way is conducted for conclusion of Agreement on the basin of Naurzum lakes. The project of agreement concerted with lawyers, and after it was discussed on round tables with water-users and representatives of public organizations and local authorities. The agreement contemplate liquidation of not using dams and waters reservoirs, limitation of volumes of the detained water in accordance with necessities, reconstruction of dams and overflow weir, gradual transition as far as possibilities on the alternative sources of water, procedure of discussion and concordance of all projects on the use of water on the Basin Council created in a district.

For decline of level of disturbance and threat of the poaching of cranes and other forbidden species, 12 lakes systems of Kostanay Region by the decision of territorial department of Forest and Hunting Committee were declared «especially important». There were closed the water surface and reeds for hunting as well as a coast on distance 0,5-1,0 km from shore line. On some lakes users on the time of migration of waterfowl have been removing fisher's and shepherd's camps from a birch.

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 activities: In accordance with the normative documents of Kazakhstan not less than 15% territory of hunting area in the places of the mass nesting and concentration of birds on migration must be fully closed for hunts. Some hunting economies forbid hunts throughout of lakes, and also along a bar directly joining to the lake in the distance to 1 km from shore line, and set the special areas of rest in the places of feeding of geese and ducks on the fields. Such practice, for example, is used by Kostanay regional society of hunters and fishermen on Kulykol Lake area.

Spring hunts is settled only on males of ducks, its terms are limited two weeks and a responsible regional agency can move time depending on a situation. The legislation contemplates possibility and procedure of zoning of wetlands for the selection of sectors with the different pattern of the use, including, closed for hunts.

Future plans: The question about expedience of spring hunting and possibility of its complete prohibition have been discussing in hunting association.

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.

The cases of poaching are known in habitats of Siberian Crane in Kostanay Region, including shooting of some threatened species and Eurasian Cranes. But last years, with strengthening of control, similar cases became rare. Basic problems here are related to the low culture and special literacy of hunters, complication of control conditioned by large distances on under-populated territories, insufficient availability of technical and material of inspector's services and low level of salary.

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

Kazakhstan is the country participant of Convention on the Biodiversity, CMS Bonn and Ramsar Conventions and Convention of CITES and undertake for executing of a proper positions of conventions, including in area of trade of animals and their parts and products. The national commission of CITES operates in a country.

The penalty for illegal shooting of Siberian Crane is set up in a size making about 6,5 thousand of dollars of the USA.

New amendments are preparing in the law on PA, in particular it is assumed to include Key ornithological territories – IBAs into the list of protected areas.

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).

Amendments are preparing in the law on the PA of Kazakhstan, in particular it is assumed to include a concept of «Important Bird Area». It will have great importance because all main stopover areas of Siberian Crane are introduced in the network of IBAs.

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

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.

A basic problem consists in that not all possibilities of existent legislation are used on a regional level. Partly it is related to it is not enough expressly prescribed procedure of application of one or another norms and, from other side, by absence of initiative groups ready to realize these possibilities and to set a precedent. For example, the legislation foresees possibility of carrying out of zoning of wetlands/lakes with the purpose of maintenance of the most valuable areas and awarding judgements on these questions at regional (Region) level. This instrument does not work however in practice. For Governmental agencies of regional level, accountable for the Wild protection, not always there is enough time and initiative, and from other side ecological NGO, wherein they are, have no resources and experience for realization of such projects.

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.

During migration from 2000 to 2008 from 2 to 7 birds were annually registered on territory of Kostanay Region, including one pair (Bragin, 2008).

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: Regular monitoring of the known stopover sites of Siberian Crane on the territory of Kostanay Region was conducted in the period of spring and autumn migration annually. The route included the obligatory inspection of the following lakes from a north on a south-west: Kamishovoe, Zhaman, Bozshakol, Koybagar-Tyuntyugur lake systems, Kushmurun, Baytuma, Naurzumskaya lake systems, Sankebay, Shoptykul, Zharsor-Urkashskaya lake systems, lakes of Tounsor Refuge and Kulykol-Taldykols Lake System. The team consisted usually from one or two ornithologists, field assistant and driver of car.

In addition, the regular periodic inspections (two or three time per week) of stopover places of Siberian Crane were conducted on Naurzum lakes (Bragin E.), and questionnaire and questioning of hunters and fishermen had been using also.

By the monitoring group Siberian Crane was never registered. On Naurzum lakes for 2007-2009 years E. Bragin observed one Siberian Crane in September, 2007. From

respondents and on questioning the following meetings are known: on May, 4-6 – one bird in the flock of Eurasian cranes on Mohovoe lake in Uzunkol district; on April, 15-19, 2008 one pair of Siberian Crane with the group of Eurasian cranes observed on the fields to the north from Chily Lake; doubtful information about meeting of two pairs of Siberian Crane in a district Baytuma Lake in April, 2007.

Experience of work 2000-2008 years shows that monitoring by transect observing through lakes laying along migratory rout is not effective for searching of Siberian Crane. Taking into account a critical low number of west/central populations of Siberian Cranes and monitoring experience of the last years, it is necessary to acknowledge the following: (1) the permanent monitoring during all time of migration along 1-2 most regular stopover places (and firstly - on Naurzum lakes) is more effective method to search of Siberian Crane; (2) the same monitoring is needed in the places of mass concentration of Eurasian cranes (on the lakes of Zharsor-Urkash and, possibly, in Uzunkol district), this should be very important if the programme of release reared juvenal Siberian Cranes to the flocks of Eurasian cranes in Armyzone zakaznik will be continue; (3) should be useful to develop a correspondent network due to which the new points of stopovers of Siberian Cranes were identified in 2000th.

Future plans: **To continue monitoring on the lakes of Naurzum Reserve and Zharsor-Urkash Refuge. Counts of cranes and other waterfowls on other lakes along migratory way in Kostanay, if there will be necessary financial and technical resources. Continue questioning of hunters, fishermen, shepherds and questionnaire, if financial resources will be accessible.**

b) Air survey YES NO **NOT APPLICABLE**

Past activities

Future plans

c) Counts **YES** NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities **Counts of Eurasian Cranes were conducted**

Future plans: **To continue counts of Eurasian Cranes if financial resources will be available.**

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

Past activities: **The questionnaire was conducted in 2006 and 2007, thanking to it there was identified new important stopover of Siberian Cranes (registrations in 2000, 2002 and 2008) near Chily Lake in Aulyekol District. Important inquiry was conducted for hunters, fishermen, shepherds and local people.**

Future plans: **Repeat the questionnaire if funds will be available for printing of questionnaires. Continue inquiry of local people (hunters, fishermen and shepherds).**

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?

Programme of monitoring that had conducted in 2000-2009 years shows that in circumstances of limited financial, technical and human resources would be much better to make stationary observation during all migratory time in an one or two sites of the most frequent Siberian Cranes stopovers - in Naurzum and Zharsor-Urkash Refuge, and also to develop a correspondent network and possibilities to use the questionnaire. All registrations of Siberian Cranes in 2000-2008 (34 meetings no less than 40 birds) were made by this way.

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

Future plans

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

c) Color banding YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **The questionnaire was conducted in 2006 and 2007, thanking to it there was identified new important stopover of Siberian Crane (registrations in 2000, 2002 and 2008) – Chily Lake in Aulyekol District.**

Future plans: **Repeat the questionnaire if funds will be available for printing of questionnaires.**

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **Ground surveys, including counts of waterfowl, ecological features of lakes, water level, threats, had executed within the framework of project of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF in 2007-2009 years. The correspondent network is created from people, like gamekeeper, hunters, fishermans and others for collecting information so wide as possible.**

Future plans: **To continue questioning of local people and to develop a correspondent network.**

f) Other reports YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

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

Past activities

Future plans

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE (no sightings)

Past activities: To check up all reports about meetings of Siberian Cranes is not possible on the following reasons: because complications with connection such reports come usually only in a few days after meeting; not always there are feasibilities to drive out into place, especially taking into account the large extent of distances and absence of roads. Experience showed, that direct conversation with an original source about the details of observation, features of appearance birds and their behaviour in most cases allows to sift erroneous identifications.

Plan for immediate response to future sightings: verification of reports is possible in a cases of their receipt in sighting day and presences of possibilities to come into place.

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 The analysis of all meetings and observations of Siberian Cranes on migration in Kazakhstan: phenology, variety of biotopes in spring and in autumn, ecological terms of stopover lakes in the different phases of hydrological cycle, behavior of cranes is conducted:

Bragin E.A., 2008. Migration of Siberian Crane in Kazakhstan: review of historical and modern data// Cranes of Eurasia 3 (biology, distribution, migrations). Issue 3. Collection of labours of the International conference “Cranes of Palaeartic: biology and conservation”. Russia, Rostov Region. Octobers, 1-4 2007. P. 327-341.

Future plans Depending on a situation to continue the data collecting about meeting of Siberian Crane, ecological terms of stopover site their changes and behavior of cranes. Planning of the special researches of Siberian crane not possibly because their number is critical low at present.

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 **Special works devoted to the study of Siberian Crane, for current period was not published, as such researches in Kazakhstan were not conducted. Description of stopover sites (ecological terms, their dynamics, basic threats, protection) with pointing of meetings of Siberian Cranes published in a book «Important Bird Area Kazakhstan».**

1. Bragin E.A., 2006. Monitoring of Siberian Crane and results of questionnaire in Kustanay Region// Kazakhstan ornithological bulletin 2005. Àlmaty, 2006. “Tetis”, P. 167-169.
 2. Bragin E.A., 2007. Naurzum State Reserve// Researches on Important Bird Area in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. Àlmaty, - P. 23-42.
 3. Bragin E.A., 2007. Zharsor-Urkashskye sory// Researches on Important Bird Area in Kazakhstan and Middle Asia. Àlmaty, - P. 14-23.
 4. Bragin E.A., 2008. Zharsor-Urkashskye sory// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Àlmaty, P. 133-134.
 5. Bragin E.A., 2008. Naurzum Reserve// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty, P. 137-139.
 6. Bragin E.A., 2008. Koybagar-Tyuntuyugurskaya system lake// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty, P. 123-124.
 7. Bragin E.A., 2008. Kulykol-Taldykolskaya system lake// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty, P. 128-130.
 8. Bragin E.A., 2008. Sankebaysky lakes// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty, P. 135-136.
 9. Bragin E.A., 2008. Sarykopa lake system// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty, P. 140-142.
 10. Bragin E.A., 2008. Tounsor lakes// Important Bird Area of Kazakhstan. Almaty. P. 130-132.
- Bragin E.A., Bragin A.E. 2008. State of important bird area Sarykopa Lake in 2007 (on materials of bird counts in July, 2007) // Kazakhstan ornithological bulletin 2007. Almaty, “Tetis”, P. 29-33.

Future publication plans **There is no plan**

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 **The international seminar on creation of crane database took place in 2004 in Kostanay City. During subsequent years for its filling was provided base information on main stopover sites of Siberian Crane like complete description of lakes, their ecological state, features of the hydrological regime, threats, existent protection, lists of species of birds, date of meetings of Siberian Cranes. Within the framework of project of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF there were prepared series of GIS maps of 4th projects areas, conducted spring and autumn counts of migratory birds and monitoring of current status of stopover sites. All information was passed in a database. Data about meetings of Siberian Crane is immediately sent in a database. For preparation of Kazakhstan’s section in Siberian Crane Atlas necessary information was provided.**

Future plans: **To continue addition to the database by new information about the changes of the ecological state of stopover sites, their legal status, threats and new registrations of Siberian Crane.**

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: **Within the framework of the national program of monitoring of bird flu (Forest and Hunting Committee) Naurzum Nature Reserve, inspectors service of Kostanay Region, including located on the lakes of the systems of Kulykol-Taldykol, Tyuntyugur-Koybagar, Zharsor-Urkash and other had provided the permanent monitoring of mortality of waterfowls. In cases of finding of the dead individuals they passed them on examination. The group of virologists of Institute of virology had took noninvasive tests (swabs) from chicks on some lakes of Kostanay Region, including in the buffer zone of Naurzum Nature Reserve in 2008 in framework of implementation of international grant.**

Future plans: **In accordance with pointing of Forest and Hunting Committee and other responsible agencies regular monitoring should be conducted. If fact of mass death of birds will be set up, FHC must be immediately informed.**

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.

Monitoring of migratory Siberian Cranes through ground survey near lakes located along migratory route is not effective. Taking into account a critical low number of west/central populations of Siberian Cranes and monitoring experience of the last years, it is necessary to acknowledge the following: (1) the permanent monitoring during all time of migration along 1-2 most regular stopover places (and firstly - on Naurzum Lakes) is more effective method to search of Siberian Crane; (2) the same monitoring is needed in the Eurasian Cranes staging areas (near Zharsor-Urkash Lake and, possibly, in Uzunkol district). It will be very important if the reintroduction programme for Siberian Cranes to the flocks of Eurasian cranes in Belozerskiy Wildlife Refuge, Armizon District of Tyumen Region in Russia will be continued; (3) It is useful to develop a correspondent network due to which the new points of stopovers of Siberian Cranes were identified in 2000th.

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.

Experience was applied for improve searching strategy.

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

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

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

Future plans

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

a) Ground survey

Past activities

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

Future plans

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: **In 1998 at co-coordinating of the Russian colleagues (information of current positions was provided) the searches of Siberian Crane supplied by satellite transmitter were conducted.**

Future plans: **To participate in tracing of migration of Siberian Crane through territory of Kazakhstan in the case of tagging of birds by satellite transmitters.**

b) Radio tracking YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

c) Color banding. YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities

Future plans

d) Questionnaire YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **Places of migration concentrations of Eurasian cranes on Mamyrkol lake in Kamysty district and on Mohovoe lake in a Uzunkol district were found in result of questionnaire.**

Future plans: **To continue work on the questionnaire inspectors and hunters at presence of financial resources for printing of questionnaires.**

e) Surveys YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities: **The place of the largest migratory concentration of Eurasian cranes was discovered on Zharsor lake in a Kamysty district in result of expeditions 1998-1999.**

Future plans: **Surveys north and west parts of Kostanay Region and continue monitoring of migratory concentrations on Zharsor lake, if necessary resources will be found.**

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.

In the process of realization of project of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF three Committees of management by projects areas were created for following sites: Naurzum/Zharsor-Urkash, Kulykol-Taldykol and Tyuntyugur-Zhanshura.

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

Future plans

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: Prepared and approved management plans for a Naurzum Reserve and Zharsor-Urkash Refuge.

Future plans: There are some problems on this way. Preparation of management plans for other areas (not reserve or zakaznik) possible in collaboration with the existing users of these areas, determination of responsible/initiative groups and providing by resources for conducting of necessary works. There is no complete clarity on procedure of acceptance and assertion management plans of areas not being the legally especially Protected area.

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: In accordance with Management plan of Naurzum Reserve there are conducting researches on dynamics of number and monitoring of migratory waterfowls, but not enough resources restrict this study.

Future plans. **Expansion of studies depends on the level of financing.**

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. **Within the framework of project of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF and project on description of Important Bird Area estimation of ecological terms of areas and existent threats related to human development activities was conducted. The basic threats on there are conditioned by the ineffective use of water resources, violations by agriculture (pasture of cattle in a coast area, ploughing open of slopes of lakes hollows and watershed), poaching and fires.**

For the analysis of possible influence on the hydrological regime of lakes and dynamic number of waterfowls of climatic changes the special project and funding is needed, because this work requires collection and analysis of enormous volume of materials, beginning with meteorological data (amounts of precipitations, temperatures and etc) for period maximally possible on duration of supervisions.

Future plans: **Continue monitoring of the ecological terms of stopover sites and dynamics of threats.**

For the analysis of possible influence on the hydrological regime of lakes and dynamic number of waterfowls of climatic changes the special project and funding is needed, because this work requires collection and analysis of enormous volume of materials, beginning with meteorological data (amounts of precipitations, temperatures and etc) for period maximally possible on duration of supervisions.

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.

Monitoring of water level of lakes is carried out by eye estimation on the scale of Danylenko. The instrumental measuring are conducted on the 4th lakes of Naurzum Reserve, in accordance with the requirements of conduct «Chronicles of nature» and Management plan. However in connection with absence of standard hydrological posts and leveling of poles exactness of such measuring is not high. The results of these measuring are present in the reports of project of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF.

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

YES NO NOT APPLICABLE

Past activities. **The seminars and trainings were conducted within the framework of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF project for different target groups: inspectors, teachers, schoolboys, students, hunters. Primary purposes of these seminars were (i) to give knowledge why it is necessary to save wetlands, (ii) promote knowledge about importance of projects sites for the maintenance of cranes and other waterfowls, (iii) to give information about problems, threatening to habitats of cranes and waterfowl; (iv) to teach to recognize of rare and threatened species of birds. Trainings were devoted to development of ecotourism and alternative types of activity, for inspectors - methods of monitoring and account. In Karamendy village the resource centre provided with needed equipment and technique is organized.**

Future plans. **There are no plans for this activity.**

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

Past activities: **The main stopover sites of Siberian Crane are included in the list of IBA. Four FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF project sites beside this included in the Ramsar list and in Western/ Central Asia Site Network for the Siberian Crane and Other Waterbirds (WCASN-SC). The users of all these areas in accordance with the legislation of Kazakhstan should be obligate to meet appointment of the state on their maintenance. The control after activity of users in part of implementation of legislation is laid on the territorial regional agencies of Forest and Hunting Committee.**

Future plans: **Within the framework of development of IBAs it is assumed to prepare suggestions on the additional measures of their protection.**

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: **The work with mass-media about the problem of conservation and reintroduction of Siberian Crane is conducted since 1998, when the first inspections of lakes of Kostanay Region and expedition for search of Siberian Crane were conducted. The regional TV campaign of «Alau» issued the special item of news about expedition and Siberian Crane. Later the ICF film was demonstrated. Also there were done some publications are in regional and city newspapers. When Crane Celebration was started in 2002 such publications became annual. By FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Project was prepared the film about this problem and efforts undertaken at international and national levels for conservation of Siberian Crane, which demonstrated by national TV. Some brochures, booklets is let out also, the publications are done in national newspapers, electronic mass-media and subjects on TV. The website of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF project is created on <http://www.scwpkaz.kepter.kz/>. The special article and subject of news by the TV «Alau» were issued in September, 2008 during the expedition jointly with the Russian colleagues in framework of ground survey of route for project «Flight of hope».**

Future plans. **Collaboration with mass-media of Kostanay Region on will be continued.**

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. **Project FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF had prepared teaching materials, including teaching the modules, brochures, booklets and etc for different age and target groups, which spread at schools located around projects sites on territory of Naurzum, Kamystinsky and Karasusky Districts. All materials are present in the reports of project. Also materials prepared by Crane Working Group of Eurasia were used.**

Future plans. **The further teaching will be is conducted by teachers passing trainings.**

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 was conducted in September at a few schools of Naurzum, Kamysty and Karasu districts, Kostanay city and in Kostanay Pedagogical Institute. In Karamendy village in 2007-2009 Crane's festivals were organized. Seminars were conducted for different target groups. These programs considerably promoted knowledge of people about importance of wetlands, problems of conservation of cranes and the whole biodiversity and attracted many new supporters.**

In addition, some schools have the «Day birds» and some other dates. In Kostanay Pedagogical Institute was organized the student club of birdwatchers. In 2008-2009, at sponsorship of project on development of clubs, students drove out on Koybagar lake for setting of informative shields that this lake is IBA, and conducted counts of waterfowls.

Future plans. **Continue traditional Crane Celebrations and development of student club of birdwatchers.**

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.

There is the necessity of update of the published materials or preparation of new.

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. **By FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Siberian Crane Wetland Project the Resource Centre was created in Karamendy Village and creation of some new NGO was initiated. Plans of involving of local communities in the implementation of Siberian Crane conservation programs on national level is absent.**

Future plans

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. **Such initiatives are not present.**

Future plans

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. By FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Siberian Crane Wetland Project the Resource Centre was created in Karamendy Village and creation of new NGOs was initiated, some of which would like to focus on the problems of ecological education and conservation of biodiversity.

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 **FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Siberian Crane Wetland Project conducted seminars and trainings on teaching of local people to the alternative activity: to development of ecotourism, to making of souvenirs, thick felt, cheese and etc. Within the framework of this direction a small private hotel is organized, in collaboration with a Naurzum Reserve**

developed and described excursion routes, in one of small settlements the equipment is acquired for baking of bread. The local NGO «Tulip» (Karamendy, Naurzum district) in 2009 received grant from GEF Small Grants Program for development of guest cottages and excursion routes.

Future plans. **The prospects of development of tourism not are clear, as to the local initiative groups without co-operation with the known tourist firms scarcely it will be possible to get the number of tourists enough for development. Development of tourism restrains by the large remoteness of projects areas and bad transporting communications of Kostanay City.**

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.

Administrative focal point is Mr. H. Musabaev, Forest and Hunting Committee, as exactly he is accountable for making politicians and management in area of the protected areas and conservation of wildlife.

Role of technical focal point was divided between a few organizations: Institute of Zoology of Kazakhstan (S. Yerokhov); Naurzum Nature Reserve and NGO «Naurzum» (E. Bragin).

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.

The roles of Forest and Hunting Committee are consists in making of official policy in area of conservation of wildlife, establishment and manage of protected area, providing of implementation of obligations of country on international conventions (Bonn, Ramsar and other) and the special international agreements within the framework of conventions (for example, the Siberian Crane MoU) and co-operation with countries - partners in this direction.

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 .

Participation in realization of project «Flight of hope». Kazakhstan experts had prepared the route with possible stopover sites on territory of country. In September, 2008 at the assistance Forest and Hunting Committee organizational help was given and participation is accepted in the expedition of the Russian working group for ground survey and estimation of route of motion through territory of Kazakhstan.

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

The main priority should be reintroduction of Siberian Crane of west/central populations, increasing of its number by the use of the birds reared in nurseries and, as part of this work, realization of project «Flight of hope».

In Kazakhstan important constituent of efforts in this direction there is organization of monitoring of migratory Eurasian Cranes in the places of their mass concentrations.

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. **The specialists of Kazakhstan involve in Crane Working Group of Eurasia activity.**

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.

The database on cranes, first presentation and discussion of which, passed on an international seminar - training in 2004 in Kostanay, demanded the general standardized methods of collection of information: descriptions of lakes, counting of birds, preparing of maps. Exactly on the basis of these methods monitoring works were conducted within the framework of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Siberian Crane Wetland Project.

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. **Share by information takes place through a coordinator on flights ways, newsletter of Crane Working Group of Eurasia and within the framework Working Group, including the regularly conducted conferences and publications of materials of conferences.**

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.

Information about meetings of Siberian Cranes is sending to coordinator on flyways. Information is annually given also about the state of stopover sites.

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. Naurzum Lake System**
- 2. Kulikol-Taldikol Lake System**
- 3. Tyuntyugur-Zhansura Lake System**
- 4. Zharsor-Urkash Lake System**
- 5. Ural River Delta**

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

There are three additional sites, witch were regular stopovers of Siberian Cranes in the past and have important value for Eurasian and Demoiselle cranes and other waterfowl birds for now.

- 1. Sarykopa Lake System. It is zakaznik but in 2011-2012 will be included as part of «Altyn-Dala» Reservat;**
- 2. Turgay-Irgiz Lake System – some of these lakes located within Turgay zakaznik and others in Turgay Reservat;**
- 3. Tengiz-Kurgaljin Lake System – within Korgalzhin Reserve.**

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. There is prepared the list of three additional sites for WCASN-SC. The main stopover sites approved as IBAs and included in the list of potential Ramsar territory, approved by FHS.

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

No activity

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. **There are three additional sites, which were regular stopovers of Siberian Cranes in the past and have important value for Eurasian and Demoiselle cranes and other waterfowl birds for now.**

1. **Sarykopa Lake System. It is zakaznik but in 2011-2012 will be included as part of «Altyn-Dala» Reservat;**
2. **Yrgiz-Turgay Lake System – some of these lakes located within Turgay zakaznik and others in Turgay Reservat;**
3. **Tengiz-Korgalzhin Lake System – within Korgalzhin Reserve.**

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.

National possibilities while are insufficient: (i) national foundation/sponsors organizations which would support NGO are absent; (ii) existent governmental grant programs (social order) realized through Region Akymats supports only socially significant projects (iii) Kazakhstan have very few experts-ornithologists, therefore, for example, for implementation of project IBAs the Russian colleagues were invited for help.

For strengthening of measures on the conservation of Siberian Crane and his habitats it is necessary, at first, to provide support to the initiative groups/NGO on realization of the projects focused on concrete sites, for example, pilot project on zoning of lakes.

Secondly, all measures on reintroduction/increasing number of Siberian Crane of west/central population make sense and can be realized only in close cooperation with the Russian side and other countries of areal. Apparently must be prepared long-term program in which can be included scientific aspects also (such as influence of climatic changes on hydrological regime of lakes and habitats of Siberian Crane and etc) and search funding for it.

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: **Training, devoted development to management plans and problems of bird flu, took place in March 2007 in Nanchang (China). There participated two persons from Kazakhstan.**

Future plans: not planned for now.

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

Project proposal was submitted to Secretariat of Ramsar Convention.

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

The Working Group of FHC/GEF/UNEP/ICF Siberian Crane Wetland Project had sponsorship from a Naurzum Akymat for holding of Crane Festivals. In addition, funding was got from some foundations for strengthening of capacity of new socially focused NGO.

Local NGO «Naurzum-Byonet» had funding from GEF Small Grant Program on a project on the reconstruction of water reservoir on Naurzum-karasu river in the basin of Naurzum Lake System.

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.

