

# NEASPEC Nature Conservation project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds in North-east Asia'

## Scoping Survey and Joint Study Guidelines

### 1. Background and Objectives

To support and implement the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy for key migratory bird species, the NEASPEC project 'Conservation and Rehabilitation of Habitats for Key Migratory Birds' kicked off with an expert group meeting (EGM) held in Incheon, October 2013.

The Project's objectives are to contribute the conservation of target species; and to promote transboundary and intergovernmental cooperation and enhance coordinated mechanism for their conservation. Under these objectives, scoping surveys and joint studies will be carried out on the three NEASPEC flagship migratory bird species (Black-faced Spoonbill, Hooded Crane, and White-naped Crane) by national focal points and coordinating bodies.

The EGM agreed that the target sites studied in this Project should have **scientific significance**; strong relevance to **international cooperation**; and implications of **local community participation**, and eight sites for the scoping survey and two sites for the joint study were selected as shown below.

There are two major components of the Project as shown in Table 1.

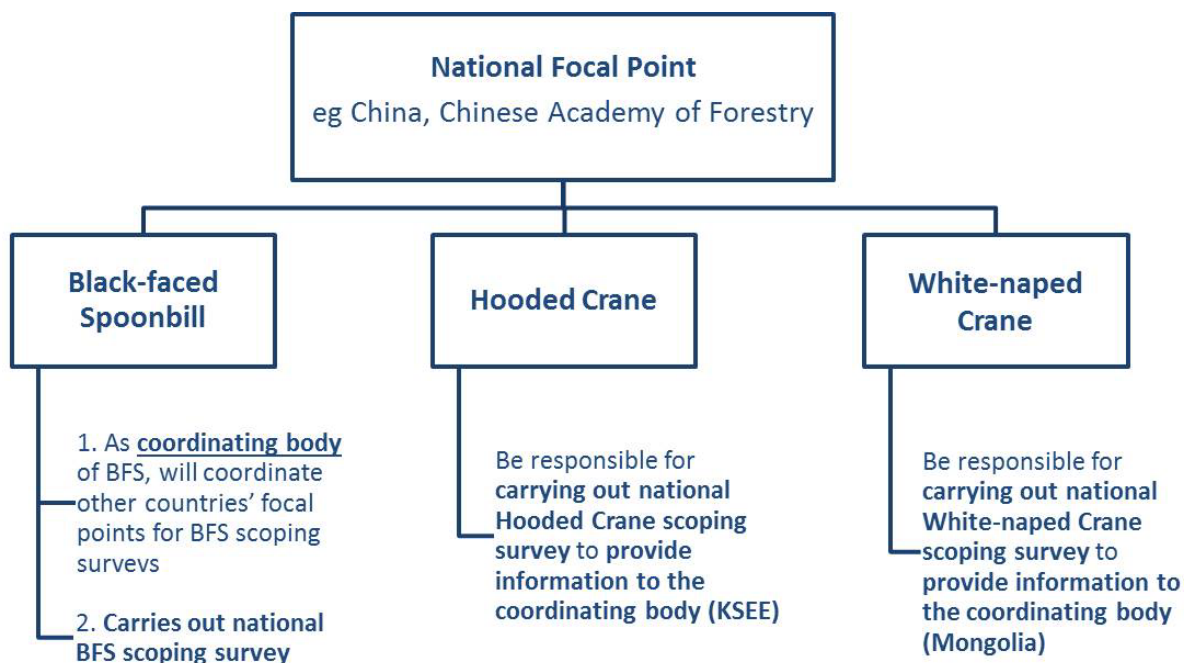
[Table 1] Two Major Components of the Project

Scoping Survey	Joint Study in transboundary areas
<p>Description</p> <p>Each country's national focal point carries out <b>domestic</b> survey for the selected sites.</p> <p>Scoping surveys will generate consistent and comprehensive information through: utilizing existing information sources, direct consultation with local stakeholders (e.g. local governments, institutions, academia, civil society and communities) and carrying out additional survey activities if needed.</p>	<p>Coordinator of each Joint Study (i. DIPA, and ii. DMZ) will coordinate with other national focal points to jointly carry out the Joint Study in these selected <b>transboundary sites</b>.</p> <p>Joint studies will generate information through <b>international cooperation</b> in: information collection and sharing, consultation of local and international stakeholders and international joint study at the selected transboundary sites.</p>
<p>Selected Sites and Tentative Timeline</p> <p><b>Black-faced Spoonbills (June 2014 –July 2015)</b>            Coordinating body: Chinese Academy of Forestry (China)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xingrentuo/Yuanbaotuo at Liaoning (China)</li> <li>• Hakata Bay (Japan)</li> <li>• Incheon (ROK)</li> </ul> <p><b>Hooded Cranes (November 2014 - February 2015)</b>            Coordinating body: Korean Society of Environment and Ecology (KSEE) (ROK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindian (China)</li> <li>• Izumi (Japan)</li> <li>• Cheonsu Bay (ROK)</li> </ul> <p><b>White-naped Cranes (June - August 2015)</b>            Coordinating body: Wildlife Science and Conservation Centre (Mongolia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National protected sites in Dauria International Protected Area and adjacent territories (including Dalai Lake for China) of Dauria ecoregion (China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation)</li> <li>• Khurkh-Khuiten River Valley Areas of the Onon River Basin and general WNC distribution range in the eastern Mongolia (Mongolia)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<p><b>Dauria International Protected Area (August to September 2015)</b>            Coordinating body: State Nature Biosphere Reserve "Daurisky"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation</li> </ul> <p><b>Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) (December 2014)</b>            Coordinating body: Korean Society of Environment and Ecology (KSEE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPRK and ROK</li> </ul>

## 2. Coordinating Bodies and National Focal Points

Roles and responsibilities of coordinating body (CB) for each species are explained as follows:

[Figure 1] Example to Illustrate Roles of National Focal Point and Coordinating Body



The coordinating body (CB) for each species will:

- Coordinate with national focal point of each country on carrying out surveys, such as timing, means of communication, methodology (understanding of guidelines), data collection, information exchange and logistical issues, etc. This may involve organizing international meetings or field visits together with national partners.
- Ensure common methodology is adopted for the survey and consistent reporting of information from national focal points
- Facilitate information exchange among all partners including national focal points and the Secretariat, including updates on plans and progress of surveys and relevant activities.
- Gather and summarize information collected from surveys by national focal points/ partners and provide a scoping survey report with raw data to the Secretariat
- Consult and discuss with national focal points/ partners on findings of the surveys, recommendations or points to be highlighted for the species studied

The national focal point (NFP) for each country will:

- Carry out scoping survey (by itself or allocate resources for a partner to carry out the survey) according to this Guideline and in coordination with each species' coordinating body
- Be responsible to allocate resources for scoping survey to be carried out for the subject species
- Directly discuss and consult with local stakeholders for input. Participate in communications and meetings held by coordinating body
- Closely liaise with the official government counterpart of the Project for the implementation, updates and outcomes of Project activities

- Provide survey output, recommendations and other comments directly to coordinating body

### 3. Tentative Timeline

It is a tentative timeline with flexibility for local conditions and natural changes such as migratory pattern or weather conditions, etc. Please inform the coordinating body and the Secretariat if any changes.

<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Activities</b>
May 2014	Consultation on draft guidelines and information sheet
Jun - Sep 2014 and 2015	[ <i>Summer Scoping Survey</i> ] Black-faced Spoonbills and White-naped Cranes
Aug - Sep 2015	[ <i>Joint Study</i> ] at Dauria International Protected Area (DIPA- China, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation)
Oct 2014	Workshop at CBD COP12 in Pyeongchang, ROK to introduce preliminary findings and progress.
Dec 2014	[ <i>Joint Study</i> ] at Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) (DPRK and ROK)
Nov 2014 - Feb 2015	[ <i>Winter Scoping Survey</i> ] Hooded Cranes
Jun 2015	Development of interim report with results/ latest updates of scoping surveys and joint studies, by KSEE
Jul 2015	Submission of project update/report to NEASPEC 20 <sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-20)

## 4. Scoping Survey

### 4.1. Information Sheet and the Survey Report

To conduct comprehensive and integrated scoping survey, Scoping Survey Information Sheet has been developed for each species with consultation of national experts and relevant resource persons.

\* To maximize added value and avoid duplication of work, wherever appropriate it is encouraged that Project activities be carried out with existing or other planned activities (eg regular surveys/ projects with other partners). In addition to the filling the information sheet, **face-to-face exchange with local communities and national focal points should be carried out by each coordinating body where possible.**

\* **Relevant information from past/ other monitoring activities should be utilized as much as possible** to present a more comprehensive and long-term picture of the habitat. Therefore **when designing the scoping survey for this Project, it should aim to fill knowledge gaps of current understanding and existing information,** with reference to the information sheet.

\* **Local stakeholders should be consulted and provide direct input** to the survey e.g. through consultation meetings with local groups or authorities etc. It is also encouraged to involve young professionals to **build local capacity** and awareness in addition to the survey.

The final survey report for each target site will be produced **in Microsoft Word Format and should not exceed 20 pages.**

### 4.2. Other Potential Activities and Partners

4.2.1. ROK Black-faced Spoonbills scoping survey and habitat mapping may potentially take place up to twice along with national Black-faced Spoonbill Workshop (May to June 2014, Ganghwa at Incheon, ROK)

4.2.2. ROK Hooded Cranes scoping survey (and coordination meeting) may take place along with International Hooded Crane workshop, **potentially** supported by Seosan City (February 2015, Seosan, ROK)

## 5. Joint Study

### 5.1. Stages of Implementation

There will be 3 stages to carry out the joint study:

- **Preparation** – Background baseline information on species, habitat condition, local community status, etc. will be collected by national focal points and collated by coordinating bodies (Korean Society of Environment and Ecology (KSEE) and State Nature Biosphere Reserve “Daurskiy”).
- **Field Study** – It will be kicked off with a workshop organized by the coordinating bodies to discuss and exchange information on species and habitat condition,

conservation and management status, local community cooperation and research methodology among participants. Field study will involve site visits to collect information for habitat mapping, spatial planning, agricultural activities, sustainable local development, local community participation, and other topics deemed appropriate further to consultation with national focal points.

- **Analysis and Reporting** – After field study, the joint study team will collate and analyze findings. Based on the findings and analysis, recommendations will be made on conservation and rehabilitation of the target sites for key migratory birds such as advice on further activities for promoting international cooperation and local community participation. A joint study report will be put together by KSEE and State Nature Biosphere Reserve “Dauriskiy” to report on the findings and recommendations.

International experts and international (non-governmental) organizations, such as East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), BirdLife International, International Crane Foundation (ICF) and IUCN, will be invited to support and participate at different stages of the joint studies.

## 5.2. Expected Outcomes

The expected outcomes of the joint study are:

- 5.2.1. Generate information and identify key factors/actors of migratory bird conservation through field studies and joint research, analysis, mapping exercise among member States;
- 5.2.2. Information exchange and experience sharing amongst expert participants across member States;
- 5.2.3. Build local capacity in studying and monitoring habitat and birds’ status;
- 5.2.4. Create zoning maps of critical sites for habitat conservation and management strategy and recommended potential protected areas; and
- 5.2.5. Provide specific input to enable long-term action plan for management and rehabilitation of critical sites to be developed.

## 5.3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Coordination** – KSEE and State Nature Biosphere Reserve “Dauriskiy” will be the coordinating bodies of the joint studies. They will actively collaborate with national focal points and inform the NEASPEC Secretariat on the progress.
- **National focal points** will coordinate national and local input for the joint study and support field study in collaboration with coordinating bodies.

## 5.4. Other Potential Activities and Partners

- 5.4.1. Joint survey to the DMZ area, potentially supported by Cheorwon county, ROK (10-20 December, 2014, ROK)