



**Expert Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas in
North East Asia
2-4 November 2010
Hunchun, China**

Background

There are over one hundred protected areas along international borders among North-East Asian countries, of which one-tenth are categorized as strictly protected areas or national nature reserves. As transboundary areas often remain intact from human activities, ecosystem under provincial and national protection areas are not confined within the designated zones but extended over the political borders. In particular, about two dozens of protected areas adjoin its neighboring protected areas across international borders. This situation requires transboundary cooperation, ranging from simple communication to full coordination of action among governments, authorities of protected areas, local communities, and conservation groups.

Since mid 1990s, North-East Asian countries have gradually strengthened bi-/multilateral cooperation on nature conservation in transboundary areas, and established, for example, Daurian International Protected Area (DIPA) between China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation and Khanka-Xingkai Lake International Nature (KLIN) between China and the Russian Federation. Furthermore, local governments and authorities of protected areas in Amur-Heilong River Basin have increased the level of formal and informal cooperation among neighboring partners. However, a lot of problems of nature conservation in transboundary areas are yet to be effectively addressed in North-East Asia.

Concerning the significance of transboundary cooperation on nature conservation, the member countries of North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) have decided to undertake a joint project to develop "Cooperation Mechanisms for Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas". The geographical scope of the project includes three major transboundary areas, i.e., the Lower Tumen River Basin, Dauria International Protected Area and Khanka-Xingkai Lake International Nature Reserve. In particular, the project aims to develop a framework for transboundary cooperation mechanism in the Lower Tumen River Basin encompassing parts of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The Basin is home to both Amur Tiger and Amur Leopard, and part of either breeding grounds or migration corridors of White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane. All four are identified as the subregion's flagship species in the NEASPEC Nature Conservation

Strategy. The project will draw experiences and learn lessons from bi/multilateral cooperation on DIPA and Khanka-Xingkai Lake for developing a cooperation mechanism in the Lower Tumen River area while it will also help strengthen the cooperation in the formers.

Objectives of the EGM

- Review existing bi/multilateral initiatives in Dauria International Protected Area, Khanka-Xingkai Lake International Nature Reserve and the Lower Tumen River Basin
- Review key challenges for effective ecosystem management in the transboundary areas
- Identify potential mechanisms for strengthening transboundary cooperation in the Lower Tumen River Basin
- Identify immediate joint actions to be undertaken by government agencies, research institutions and conservation groups in the Lower Tumen River Basin
- Develop an activity plan for 2010-2012

Organizers

- UNESCAP, State Forestry Administration of China
- Hunchun State Nature Reserve, Wildlife Conservation Society

Expected Participants

- National and local government officials, experts from research institutes, academia and NGOs in NEASPEC member countries, international organizations and UN agencies

Programme (Tentative)

1 st day: 2 November 2010	
8:00 – 8:30	Registration
8:30 – 9:00	Opening Session of the EGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remark • Welcoming Remark • Introduction to the goal and plan of the meeting
9:00 – 10:40	Session 1: Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas: approaches and practices

10:40 - 11:00	Tea Break
11:00 - 12:00	Session 2: Bi/multilateral Cooperation in Transboundary Areas in North-East Asia
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:40	Session 3: National and International Plans and Activities for the Conservation of Flagship Species in the Lower Tumen River Area
15:40 - 17:00	Tea Break
17:00 - 18:00	Sum up the meeting
2nd day: 3 November 2010	
09:00 - 10:40	Session 4: Transboundary Cooperation in North-East Asia - Achievements and Challenges
10:40 - 11:00	Tea Break
11:40 - 12:30	Session 5 (part 1): Potential Mechanisms for Transboundary Cooperation in the Lower Tumen River Area
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 19:00	Visit to Hunchun Nature Reserve
3rd day: 4 November 2010	
09:00 - 10:40	Session 5 (part 2): Potential Mechanisms for Transboundary Cooperation in the Lower Tumen River Area
10:40 - 11:00	Tea Break
11:00 - 12:30	Session 6: Joint actions and plan
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 16:30	National consultation session for China and Russian Federation
16:30 - 17:00	Tea Break
17:00 - 18:00	Conclusion and Recommendation