

Suggestions of Russian Delegation to the Framework or the Transboundary Cooperation in NE Asia

1. To mark three key sites for development of the Cooperation Mechanisms-Tumen River Basin and Khanka Lake (the Low Amur River basin), and Dauria (the Upper Amur River basin) – to help in realization existing cooperation there and to help in development of new ways and mechanisms of cooperation; to support pilot cooperation projects in all these three sites.

2. To mark White-napped Crane, Hooded Crane, and Black –gaced Spoonbill as priority species. To support pilot projects for international cooperation for study, monitoring and conservation of these species.

3. Suggested pilot projects for development of the Cooperation Mechanisms:

3.1. Khanka Lake – Joint censuses of breeding cranes and other waterbirds on Russian and Chinese sites;

3.2. Dauria – Creation of the transboundary Russian-Chinese-Mongolian Ecosystem Monitoring Network (EMN). Main tasks of the EMN:

- To study of influence of the global cimate change to biodiversity in Global transboundary Dauria ecoregion. Special attention – to White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane and other globally threatened species.
- Monitoring and study of populations of waterbirds preparation of recommendations for conservation of them. Special attention – to White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane and other globally threatened species.
- Adaptation of national and international politics of using of nature resources in Dauria to climate change. Development of sustainable using of nature resources, conservation of biodiversity.

The work for establishment of the EMN was begun by DIPA staff in 2010. In 2010 more 60 sites in Russia and Mongolia were described, monitored and analyzed. EMN includeds mainly key wetlands and grasslands. In 2011 this work will be continued in Russia and Mongolia and it will be started in China. Final and will include more 100 representative monitoring sites. In 2010 five kinds of monitoring were done on each site:

- 1) Ornithological monitoring;
- 2) Botanical monitoring;
- 3) Monitoring of anthropogenic pressure;
- 4) Ground photo monitoring;
- 5) Satellite images / GIS monitoring;

In 2011 other kinds of monitoring will be developed too (chemical monitoring of water and other)

EMN includes different sites with three levels of intensity of monitoring: primary sites (annually monitored), secondary ones (monitored ones during 2-3 years), third-rate sites (monitored ones during 4-6 years), and fourth-rate sites (observed more rare than 6 years and occasionally observed).

Background: There are 20 globally threatened species in Dauria. For some of them region has key importance. For example, about 23% of world population of White-naped Crane breed there; about 10% of world population of Hooded Crane gather there during migration. Dauria is key gathering site of migratory cranes in North-Eastern Asia. Mid-term climatic cycles about 20 years duration with alternation of period of about 15 dry years and 15 wet years have great influence to ecosystems of Dauria. During 2000-2009, about 98% of wetlands in Dauria were completely dry. It has great negative influence to populations of cranes and other waterbirds. Anthropogenic pressure grew much during 2000-2009.

The project is realized by staff of DIPA. Joint long term monitoring and study of biodiversity and ecosystem is very important and effective mechanism of cooperation

3.3 In Khanka and in Dauria – joint study of population status of White-naped Crane, study threats, preparation recommendations for conservation.

Background: Dauria has key importance for White-naped Crane – about 23% of world population of White – naped Crane inhabit there. Population Status now is critically bad because of climate change and because of very strong anthropogenic pressure. Khanka Lake also is important habitat of White-naped Crane. Population status there is stable.

3.4. In Khanka and in Dauria – joint censuses of migratory Cranes and other waterbirds.

Background: Dauria and Khanka – two most important stopover sites of White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane and millions of other species of waterbirds in north-eastern Asia