



SIBERIAN CRANE WETLAND PROJECT

Capacity Building and Community Co-management in Iran

Program Highlights

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the main SCWP site is Fereydoon Kenar Non-Shooting Area (NSA) in Mazandaran province. This site is the only known regular wintering area for the Siberian Crane in Iran. The area is not just important for Siberian Cranes, but it also is recognized as an internationally important site for its biodiversity, especially the large numbers of waterbirds. This habitat is also of high value to the local community, and ownership and operation rights of the site belong to the local community entitled *damgah* owners or trappers. The project aims to achieve sustainable, systematic management regimes at this site by actively involving stakeholders, including local communities, in the decision-making procedures for site management.

The project in Iran has initiated and established a Site Management Committee (SMC) for Fereydoon Kenar NSA. The SMC is part of the overall site management structure and provides the basis for stakeholder input to activities at the site level. Different stakeholders, including local government sectors, local NGOs, local duck-trappers, young community-based groups, local universities, etc., are involved and represented in the SMC. The function of the SMC is to:

1. Participate in preparing the Management Plan for the Non Shooting Area;
2. Participate in making decisions about important matters for conservation and management of waterbirds;
3. Supervise the management work of the NSA;
4. Negotiate with stakeholders to resolve any conflicts that occur.

It is essential to develop site management plans through a process of consultation with stakeholders and include formal mechanisms for stakeholder input to management decision-making processes; therefore currently the main purpose of the SMC for Fereydoon Kenar is to support development and negotiation of the management plan for the site and ensure its implementation in the long term, after the project is completed, as a permanent part of site management structure.

In 2008, a series of SMC meetings and workshops are being conducted by the project to review, negotiate and finalize the draft management plan for the site. This draft management plan was developed by a group of experts in the Department of Environment through the capacity building program of the project. The SMC meetings are facilitated by the project national consultant on community participation. The national consultant is an essential aspect to strengthen the structure and



7th Site Management Committee Meeting, Fereydoon Kenar Non-Shooting Area, July 2008

The UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (SCWP) is a six-year effort to protect a network of globally important wetlands in Asia that are of critical importance for migratory waterbirds and other wetland biodiversity. The project uses the globally threatened Siberian Crane (*Grus leucogeranus*) as a flagship species, linking activities at 16 key wetlands along the species' western and eastern flyways in Russia, Kazakhstan, Iran and China.



function of the SMC, also to facilitate the review and implementation of the management plan as well as to develop and negotiate with stakeholders a Co-Management Agreement, which will be part of the Management Plan. As the result of this initiation for establishing the SMC and strengthening the capacity of this committee; local stakeholders are now more involved in the planning and decision making process for management of the Ferreydoon Kenar site. They attend the meetings and actively participate in management discussion.

Project Highlights and Lessons Learned

- Establishment of the SMC is a formal and organized approach for involvement of the local stakeholders in site management;
- SMC should be developed at the early stages of the project implementation to ensure sustainability of its function;
- Gaining trust of the SMC is the key factor for involvement in site management and we should avoid making any impossible promises;
- An external facilitator is necessary to facilitate meetings and negotiations of the SMC;
- SMC meetings should be informal to create a comfortable environment for discussions by local people.



For more information on the SCWP, visit www.scwp.info or contact the International Crane Foundation, E11376 Shady Lane Rd, Baraboo WI, USA +1-608-356-9462 scwp@savingcranes.org

National Coordination Unit:
Sadegh Sadeghi Zadegan,
National Project Manager
Azin Fazeli, National Technical Officer
Department of Environment,
Tehran, I. R. Iran
Hemmat Highway, Pardisan Eco-park
PO Box 14155-7383
Tel/Fax: 0098-21-88244669
scwpiran@yahoo.com



Department of Environment