



# UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project

## Program Overview

In 2003 the International Crane Foundation, in collaboration with the governments of China, Iran, Kazakhstan, and Russia, launched the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project (SCWP). **The six-year project focuses on protecting a network of globally important wetlands in Eurasia 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. This project functions at three levels:

At the **site level**, activities aim to reduce external threats and ensure necessary water flows to maintain the ecological health of wetlands. Activities include strengthening legal protection and enforcement, training nature reserve staff, involving local communities, and developing site management plans, environmental education and public awareness programmes, and projects that promote sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

At the **national level**, the SCWP supports monitoring, training, education and public awareness programmes across sites, and applied research to inform sound management decisions, including ongoing study of seasonal waterbird movements and wetland system dynamics. SCWP is also working to improve legislation, policy and planning to support wetland and waterbird conservation. These activities are coordinated with other national wetlands initiatives to strengthen integrated wetland management through collaboration with different organizations.

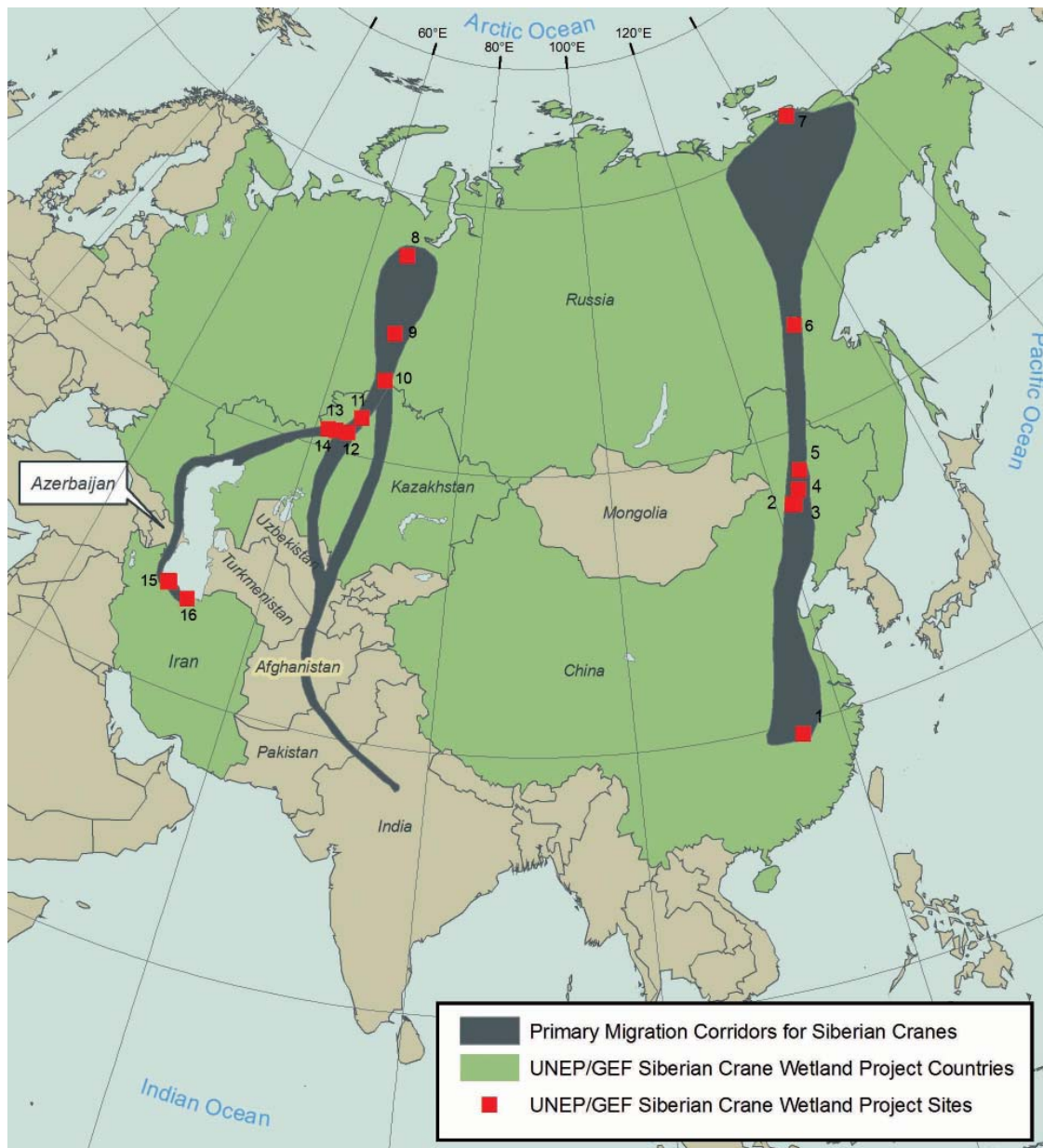
At the **international level**, the focus is on **flyway-level conservation - the network of wetland sites along the entire migratory pathways of the cranes.** To achieve this, the SCWP promotes cooperation among the four countries, enhances interaction among sites and engages communities in the management of the wetlands along the West/Central and East Asian flyways for migratory waterbirds. Conservation actions within these flyways are coordinated with other initiatives for migratory waterbirds and closely integrated with the Conservation Plans created through the Convention on Migratory Species Memorandum of Understanding.



Photos by Evgeny Bragin, Crawford Prentice and Jim Harris

For more information on the SCWP, visit [www.scwp.info](http://www.scwp.info) or contact the International Crane Foundation, E11376 Shady Lane Rd, Baraboo WI, USA  
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## SCWP Sites

(numbers correspond to locations on map)

### China

1. Poyang Lake Basin
2. Keerqin National Nature Reserve
3. Xianghai National Nature Reserve
4. Momoge National Nature Reserve
5. Zhalong National Nature Reserve

### Russia

6. Middle Aldan Site Complex
7. Kytalyk Republic Resource Reserve
8. Kunovat River Basin
9. Konda & Alymka Rivers Basin
10. Tyumen & Kurgan Transboundary Area

### Kazakhstan

11. Tyuntyugur & Zhanshura Lake
12. Naurzum Lake System
13. Zharsor & Urkash Lakes
14. Kulykol Lake

### Iran

15. Bujagh & Sefid Rud Delta
16. Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran & Sorkhe Rud Damgahs