



SIBERIAN CRANE WETLAND PROJECT

Western/Central Asian Site Network



The Western/Central Asian Site Network launch ceremony during the Sixth meeting of the Siberian Crane Range States in May 2007 in Kazakhstan.

Photo by Crawford Prentice



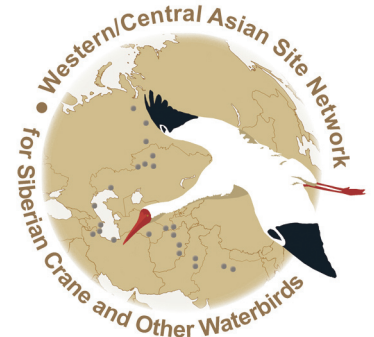
Fereydoon Kenar Non Shooting Area is a regular wintering site for the Siberian Crane's western flock in Iran.

Photo by Sadegh Sadeghi Zadeگان

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.

The Western/Central Asian Site Network (WCASN) for the Siberian Crane and other waterbirds was formally launched in May 2007 in a special signing ceremony held during the Sixth meeting of the Signatories to **the Memorandum of Understanding on the Siberian Crane under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS MoU)**.

The WCASN will focus conservation efforts on sites of international importance for the Siberian Crane along its West and Central Asian flyways in nine countries, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation (western Siberia), Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Ten sites from five countries were formally accepted into the Network at the launch ceremony. The newly designated Site Network Committee and the Site Network Working Group will advance the work of this initiative before the next meeting by reviewing proposals for additional Network sites and promoting conservation efforts.



Goal of the Site Network

To ensure the long-term conservation of the Siberian Crane and other migratory waterbirds along the Western and Central Asian Flyways through recognition and appropriate management of a network of internationally important sites.

Principles of the Site Network

The initiative to establish a Siberian Crane site network under the CMS MoU will focus attention on:

- Sites of importance for the conservation or recovery of the Siberian Crane;
- Sites which are also important for other migratory cranes and waterbirds; and
- Involving local people in conservation efforts at the sites.

Activities under the Site Network

- Support monitoring and management of the sites;
- Facilitate staff exchange programmes;
- Participate in education and public awareness activities in the WCASN;
- Maintain a regional Siberian Crane database;
- Provide training workshops for site managers and experts;
- Participate in communication and information exchange between site management bodies, researchers, and other relevant agencies in the network and other global networks; and
- Fundraising.

These activities are integrated into the respective existing Conservation Plans under the CMS MoU.



Naurzum Lake System is an important regular stopover of the Siberian Crane and other water-birds in Northern Kazakhstan.
Photo by Evgeniy Bragin



Termez is an important wintering site of the Eurasian Crane in Uzbekistan. It can be considered as a potential wintering site for the Siberian Crane.
Photo by Evgenia Lanovenko



Keoladeo-Ghana National Park was a regular wintering site of the Siberian Crane in India until 2002. Photo by Elena Ilyashenko

Map of the Site Network

Ten of the 22 proposed sites were designated as WCASN sites during the launch ceremony in Almaty in May 2007.



● - designated sites ● - proposed sites

Designated sites

Kazakhstan

1. Tyntyuygur-Zhanshura Lake System
2. Naurzum Lake System
3. Urkash-Zharsor Lake System
4. Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System
5. Ural River Delta

7. Fereydoon Kenar, Ezbaran and Sorkhe Rud Ab-Bandans

Turkmenistan

8. Durnaly

Uzbekistan

9. Termez

India

10. Keoladeo-Ghana National Park

Iran

6. Bujagh National Park



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

For more information on WCASN visit www.sibeflyway.org or contact the Siberian Crane Flyway Coordinator: 1, B. Gruzinskaya, 123308, Moscow, Russia +7-495-605-90-01 eilyashenko@savingcranes.org

