

Terms of Reference for EAAF Working Group (North East Asia Crane)

1. Back ground

Launched in July 1997 as the Working Group for the North East Asian Crane Site Network to oversee the implementation of the North East Asian Crane Site Network Action Plan of the Asia Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy. Beginning in 2000, conservation issues related to Oriental and Black Storks has been included but the Working Group and Network still retained its name for the sake of continuity. At the Working Group meetings at Izumi, Japan (December 2004) and Panjin, China (November 2007) the Working Group expressed its intention to maintain the name as 'North East Asia Crane Site Network Working Group'.

2. Goal of Working Group

To encourage international cooperation on conservation of cranes, storks, and wetlands and to ensure the long-term survival of all crane and stork species and their habitats in the region through the establishment of a cooperating unit of globally important sites and a network of conservationists under the East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership.

3. Taxonomic and geographic scope of activities

Taxonomic scope: Crane and stork species migrating among the range countries.

<i>Grus japonensis</i>	Red-crowned Crane
<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>	Siberian Crane
<i>Grus vipio</i>	White-naped Crane
<i>Grus monacha</i>	Hooded Crane
<i>Grus grus</i>	Eurasian Crane
<i>Grus nigricollis</i>	Black-necked Crane
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane
<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>	Demoiselle Crane
<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>	Oriental Stork
<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	Black Stork

(Conservation of the eastern subspecies of Great Bustard *Otis tarda dybowskii* sharing the habitat with crane species will be included whenever the Working Group thinks feasible and appropriate.)

Geographic scope: The six countries in North East Asia: the Russia Federation (Eastern), Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea and Japan (Projects on Black-necked Cranes might involve other countries neighboring China.)

4. Well-defined objectives for the Working Group

- To preserve important breeding, staging and wintering habitats for crane and stork species.
- To encourage joint and coordinated management efforts between reserves on national borders.
- To encourage joint and coordinated management efforts among protected areas, agencies and organizations along the North East Asian migratory routes.
- To promote exchange of information between different countries and agencies.
- To maintain and share a database on crane and stork information and reserve sites.
- To carry out studies and research on the requirements related to crane and stork conservation.
- To carry out studies on the sustainable use of wetlands in the region.
- To promote the sustainable use of wetlands in the region.
- To promote public awareness and education in the region, especially at the Network Sites

5. Membership

The Working Group will consist of 8 persons: One national representative from each range country, the Coordinator and IUCN crane specialist group representative.

National representatives will be nominated from the government agencies of each country that joined the Flyway Partnership (or most relevant agency if the country has not yet joined). The Coordinator is nominated by the national representatives. The IUCN crane specialist group representative will be nominated by the Chairman of the IUCN crane specialist group on consultation with Working Group members.

Members of the Working Group may change upon the request from the range countries or from the discussion of the Working Group members.¹

6. Chairing / Coordination arrangement

The Working Group will have a Chair to represent the Working Group at international meetings. The Chair will also be responsible for planning for fundraising and advocacy, with the support from the Advisory Board (see below) and other members of the Crane Working Group. The Chair will be nominated by consensus of the Working Group members.

The Working Group will have a Coordinator to promote good communication amongst the members of the Working Group and the Advisory Board, and with the Network Sites, the Secretariat of the Flyway Partnership and other organizations. The Coordinator will also take the lead in the implementation of the projects with support from other members of the Working Group and the Advisory Board. The role of the Coordinator is almost identical to the former Flyway Officer. The Coordinator will be nominated (or confirmed) by other Working Group members.

7. Modus operandi / Meeting

The Working Group will maintain an active and close discussion, by use of e-mail, internet communication, telephone and other traditional communication methods. Preferably the Working Group will meet annually.

8. Financing

The Working Group will determine a budget and raise the necessary funds for activities. It is expected that countries and organizations participating in the Flyway Partnership will provide assistance with fund-raising, as has been practiced previously for the North East Asia Crane Site Network.

9. Others arrangements

Advisory Board

An Advisory Board will be established by the Working Group.

It has no limit to numbers of members, who should be knowledgeable about cranes, storks, wetlands, or related conservation issues in the region. Normally, persons meeting this criterion, and asking to participate, will be accepted to join the Advisory Board

Additional members will be invited by the Working Group, after consultation with existing Advisory Board members..

The Advisory Board will not meet regularly but will be kept informed by the Working Group on activities and proposals, and can participate in special events and other activities organized by the Working Group.

The Advisory Board members should provide advice and support to the Working Group based on his/her field of expertise (fund-raising, administrative and technical advice and support, nature reserve management, etc.)

Members of the Advisory Board can play a leading role in the implementation of a project by invitation of the Working Group.

The Working Group will nominate one or more of its own members and/or members of the Advisory Board to serve on the Technical Advisory Group of the New Flyway Partnership.

Action Plan

An Action Plan will be prepared for guidance of project priorities for a five-year period. The Action Plan

¹ At the transition of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy Working Group to the Flyway Partnership Working Group, all national representatives of the former Working Group remain until confirmation or nomination is obtained from the range countries.

The former Flyway Officer will temporarily become the Coordinator and the IUCN crane specialist group representative remains. Their positions in the Working Group will be confirmed at the first meeting of the renewed Working Group, which is expected in 2008.

The breeding ground expert, wintering ground expert and stork expert will become members of the Advisory Board as other former national representatives.

will be discussed and approved by the Working Group, which will consult relevant government agencies, international NGOs, related institutions and the Advisory Board. Consensus will be sought to adopt the Action Plan and proposed activities.

An annual report of implementation of the Action Plan will be prepared by the Chair and Coordinator to be distributed to the Network Sites, members of the Working Group and Advisory Board and the Secretariat.

10. Priority action / task list

Priority actions as identified in the Action Plan 2007-2012:

Promotion event for Crane Network to coincide with the Korean Ramsar Conference.
Promotion event on Crane Conservation, using TV and other media to cover the event.
A joint, interactive website on crane migration, inviting schools at different sites to take part.
Strengthen the cooperation between Crane Network Sites.
National coordinators nominated in each country
Identification and protection/well-management of sites with good potential for wintering population dispersal
Study and make recommendation on climate change related to crane populations in selected areas
Cooperation and research on wetland management for wintering sites in Poyang Lake.
Expand the number of sites important to cranes under the Flyway Partnership
Facilitate or implement species conservation projects on Red-crowned Crane, Black-necked Crane, White-naped Crane, Hooded Crane, Siberian Crane and Oriental Stork.

Tasks of the Working Group

Prepare an annual implementation plan of action in accordance to the Action Plan.
Communicate with range states, the Advisory Board, related institutions, Network Sites and the Secretariat to get support and/or endorsement of the annual implementation plan.
Fundraising and implementation of the Action Plan.
Preparation of annual reports regarding implementation to range states, the Advisory Board, related institutions, Network Sites and the Secretariat.