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SIBERIAN CRANE FLYWAY NEWS



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CAPTIVE BREEDING

SIBERIAN CRANES STUDBOOK 2001

By Tatiana Kashentseva and Robertus Belterman

The third issue of Siberian Crane International Studbook is published.

Two first issues of the Siberian Crane International Studbook (1984 and 1996) were prepared by Vladimir Panchenko, former Director of Oka Crane Breeding Center. In 1984 there were 32 Siberian Cranes listed in 4 institutions (Oka Crane Breeding Center and Moscow Zoo, Russia; International Crane Foundation, USA and Vogelpark Walsrode, Germany). The first breeding in captivity was at the International Crane Foundation in 1981. The female laid 10 eggs; three of which were fertilized by using artificial insemination; two chicks hatched and one chick was reared.



In 1990 Siberian Crane started to breed in Oka Crane Breeding Center and in Vogelpark Walsrode in 1991. Besides 12 eggs from wild nests of eastern population (1986), 3 eggs from wild nests of western population (1988, 1990 and 1996) were taken for captive breeding. One injured adult Siberian Crane was brought from Yakutia to Oka Breeding Center, and 27 adult species were captured in China.

In 1996 there were 124 Siberian Cranes (61/59/4) listed in 26 institutions (in 3 European and 2 American countries). During the last 5 years (1997-2001), 146 chicks hatched.

On 31 December 2001 there were 190 Siberian Cranes (83/88/19) listed in 33 institutions (table 1). The increase was partially due to improve reporting from China.

Table 1

Siberian Cranes in captivity on 31 December 2001

Institution	Country	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Parc Paradiseo	Belgium	4	4	0	8
Cracid Breeding and Conservation Center	Belgium	14	19	0	33
Beijing Zoological Garden	China	7	6	6	19
Changchun Zoological Garden	China	1	1	1	3
Changsha Zoological Garden	China	1	0	0	1
Harbin Zoological Garden	China	1	1	0	2
Hefei Zoological Garden	China	3	4	1	8
Huangshan	China	1	0	0	1
Nanchang Zoological Garden	China	0	0	1	1
Najing Zoological Garden	China	0	0	2	2
Lianyungang Zoological Garden	China	0	0	1	1
Quihuangdao Zoological Garden	China	0	0	1	1
Shanghai Zoological Garden	China	1	1	0	2
Xuzhou Zoological Garden	China	0	0	3	3
Zhalong	China	2	0	0	2
Reserve Zool De Sauvage	France	2	2	0	4
Private, Bad Rotenfelde	Germany	2	2	0	4

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tierpark Berlin-Friedrichsfelde	Germany	2	2	1	5
Vogelpark Walsrode	Germany	2	2	0	4
Tallinn Zoological Garden	Estonia	1	1	0	2
Hirakawa Zoological Park	Japan	2	1	0	3
Osaka Municipal Tennoji Zoo	Japan	1	1	0	2
Tama Zoological Park	Japan	5	10	0	15
Jesus Estudillo Lopez	Mexico	2	2	0	4
Moscow Zoological Park	Russia	2	2	1	5
Novosibirsk Zoological Park	Russia	1	1	0	2
Oka Crane Breeding Center	Russia	15	13	1	29
Private Residence	Turkey	1	0	0	1
International Crane Foundation	USA	7	8	0	15
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden	USA	0	1	0	1
Detroit Zoological Institute	USA	2	1	0	3
Zoo New England	USA	1	2	0	3
TOTALS		83	88	19	190

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SIBERIAN CRANE WINTERING AND SPRING MIGRATION

WESTERN POPULATION

Iran

This winter we arrived at the Siberian Cranes wintering places in the Fereydoonkenar Damgah in 6 February 2002. We hoped to catch one or two Siberian Cranes to attach satellite transmitters (Platform Terminal Transmitter or PTT). PTT data will help us to learn important unknown information about the flyway of this population including summering areas of juveniles, alternate breeding areas, alternate wintering sites, and migratory stopover sites. Now we know only two places where cranes stop regularly - in the Naurzum Nature Reserve (Kazakhstan) and the Astrakhan Nature Reserve (Russia). Both site share protected areas and under regular monitoring. It is necessary to defined other key sites for the western population of Siberian Cranes in order to assess threats and take appropriate conservation measures.

During our visit to Fereydoonkenar Damgah all three Siberian Cranes stayed inside the damgah and did not fly out. The damgah is the place where local people traditionally hunt and trap waterfowl. The damgah is fenced naturally by trees naturally and artificially by reeds. It is very strongly prohibited to go into damgah and to disturb waterfowl and other water birds. Therefore, we unfortunately had no possibilities to capture the Siberian Cranes for marking by satellite transmitters in this year.

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Iran

Three (3) Siberian Cranes apparently left the Sorkhrud Damgah in Mazandaran at about 2 p.m. on Saturday 2 March 2002 along with other water birds. They were apparently frightened by random shots from hunters after they had been feeding in the Sorkhrud Damgah all that morning (as reported by the local representative). Shooting the previous nights at Fereidoonkenar had emptied that area of waterfowl. A shoot-out had been prevented this year by the Department of Environment who did a magnificent job by having the Sari, Babol and Amol offices consistently monitor the area for the last week. Their game guards prevailed on the trappers to keep the area peaceful until the cranes left. Thus the Siberian Cranes stayed close to their normal departure date of 4-5 March. We found no trace of the Siberian Cranes on 3-4 March.

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Russia

There is no information available about Siberian Crane migration through the Astrakhan nature reserve in spring 2002. From 7 to 9 March there was a terrible fire at the Obzhorovo site (where Siberian Cranes regularly stop during migration). Probably sight of a fire frightened the Siberian Cranes away. According to information from Iran, Siberian Cranes were expected to fly near Astrakhan in the second week of March.

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Central population

India

On 9 November 2001 at about 0830 hrs the rickshaw-pullers and nature guides at the main entrance gate of the Keoladeo National Park (Bhartatpur, India) were pleasantly surprised to suddenly hear the call of the Siberian Cranes! There were no Siberian Cranes at the Park at that time. They looked up in the sky through the canopy of the acacia trees that dot that region profusely to find out what the call was.

And lo! Two Siberian Cranes were flying from the north towards the south, into the Park! Some paddled bicycles to reach the heart of the park where the lakes lie.

Others stood in admiration. The park echoed with a single note: the Siberian Cranes have arrived! Jubilation marked the scene. The following day newspapers reported that their arrival was rather early this time.

The Siberian Cranes were likely surprised to experience the aquatic habitat of the park. They had to dig in the ground for long hours to find their food. Lack of water for most of the year in the various blocks of the park had hardened their surfaces. The food was probably more difficult to find than in earlier years.

The park received less water this season. The water depth was lower. The spread (or surface area) of water was less. Not all the blocks could be water logged. Lack of adequate monsoon and peoples' demand for water for irrigation were responsible for causing the park to face such dry conditions.

The two Siberian Cranes were often found missing from the park as we tried to locate them early in the mornings. They usually roosted and fed in Blocks D and E. We were surprised to find them absent and we visited adjoining dry blocks. The Siberian Cranes were observed entering into the park and settling once in a dry block, then flying to settle in a well watered block.

Their arrival was observed again. It was apparent that their arrival in morning was from the Chiksana region: do they go to those wetlands for the night? To feed better and roost there? Bachu Singh surveyed the Chiksana areas, which are about 40-50 km away by road from the park. He did not find the Siberian Cranes at night in the Chiksana region. But the

Siberian Cranes were certainly not present at night inside the park and were often observed returning

to the park in the morning.

The Siberian Cranes received the main focus at the park throughout the season. However, the forest authorities did not initiate any study on the birds. Some volunteers continued keeping records of the birds' movements.

Both the Siberian Cranes took off from the park on 4 March 2002 about 10.10 hrs. That brought to an end this season's wintering in Keoladeo National Park for the two Siberian Cranes.

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Uzbekistan

A hunting ranger recorded one Siberian Crane in the big flock of Eurasian Cranes between Aidarcul Lake and Nuratinsky Mountains, Uzbekistan in 3 April 2002. Ornithologists know this site of regularly stopover area for Demoiselle and Eurasian Cranes. It is necessary to check this information and defined the coordinates of the record site.

This record is likely the result of a leaflet shared with hunting rangers, fishermen, and ornithologists during two last springs. In 2002 leaflets were printed in both Russian and Uzbek languages. There were publications in local newspaper and two radio transmissions about Siberian Cranes. Now we are preparing a poster, where the spring and autumn flyways and stopover sites of Demoiselle and Eurasian Cranes will be identified.

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EASTERN POPULATION

China

It has been 20 years since the establishment of Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve, China, now the protection work at the reserve is moving onto a more scientific track. The reserve strengthened its protection and monitoring once more - 9 monitoring and protection stations were set up at 9 lakes of the reserve, and 2 or 5 staff were assigned to each station to increase the efficiency of protection and monitoring work. It is the first time for each station at the reserve to record daily the wintering waterfowl at each lake. This method needs further improvement as the area of each lake differs remarkably, as do the workloads of the staff in each station. This might affect the accuracy of the data, so the real number of wintering waterfowl should be more than those we have reported.

We collected the records of the 9 stations, from 10 October 2001 to 28 March 2002 for a total of 170 days. We selected and summed up 159 available days and obtained the following statistic results:

Table 1

**The highest amount of Siberian Crane at Poyang Lake N.R.
of each month from October 2001 to March 2002**

Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
192	2 020	2 051	3 100	3 100	1 874

The first arrival date of the Siberian Crane was 11 October 2001, the last departure date was 3 March 2002.

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Poyang Lake National Nature Reserve
(Adopted from China Crane News, Vol.6, No 1.)

NEWS FROM THE CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES

Berlin, 4 June 2002. The Russian Federation, home to critical breeding and migration stop-over areas of the Siberian Crane, signed the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane during a recent German-Russian bilateral consultation on environment.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment, Mr. Kirill Jenkov, signed the MoU on behalf of his Government. In so doing, the Russian Federation joins the eight other signatories to the MoU (Azerbaijan, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), which was originally negotiated in 1993 under the auspices of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Threatened with extinction, the Siberian Crane is listed in CMS Appendix I. It survives in three remnant flocks or populations, which winter in the Islamic Republic of Iran, India and China, respectively. Signatory States to the MoU commit themselves to implement a comprehensive Conservation Plan for the species across its migratory range. Already a leading player in Siberian Crane conservation activities (and a signatory to the first version of the MoU as originally drafted in 1993), Russia will now participate formally in coordinated actions throughout the vast range of this magnificent bird.

The Memorandum of Understanding and its Conservation Plan were revised and opened for signature in Ramsar, Iran, in December 1998. Implementation has accelerated with each meeting of the Range States. The last such meeting hosted by the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin in May 2001, agreed further important revisions and extension of the Conservation Plan. Funding from the Global Environment Facility of a US\$10 million dollar project to conserve Asian wetlands important for Siberian Cranes and other waterbirds is expected to be confirmed later this year.

For more information please contact the [CMS Secretariat](#).

The Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species is about to publish the full proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of Siberian Crane Range States, which was held at the headquarters of the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, in May 2001. In addition to the meeting report, which was circulated in draft form last October, the proceedings will include the revised Conservation Plans for the Western, Central and Eastern Populations of Siberian Cranes.

The report will be circulated to interested persons and organisations on the Secretariat's mailing list, and will also be accessible online, on the CMS Web site (www.wcmc.org.uk/cms). It is hoped that key sections of the document can be translated into Russian.

NEW PROJECT TO TEST FEASIBILITY OF USING A HANG GLIDER TO LEAD SIBERIAN CRANES ALONG A MIGRATION ROUTE ACROSS CENTRAL ASIA

By Claire Mirande

The International Crane Foundation is teaming up with the All Russian Research Institute for Nature Protection (ARRINP) and world-renowned hang-glider pilot Angelo d'Arrigo to conduct a feasibility study to determine if young, captive-bred Siberian Cranes can be taught a traditional migration route between Russia and Iran across Central Asia.

The Project will combine the ultralight techniques with the free flight of a hang glider in order to better simulate flight patterns of wild cranes. The goal this year is to cover part of the migration route between Kunovat, Russia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Siberian Cranes produced in captivity at the Oka Biosphere Reserve southeast of Moscow will be imprinted on both hang gliders and ultra-light planes and trained to fly behind these two aircraft. They will be transferred to Kushavat near the Kunovat Nature Reserve in western

Siberia for intense training and led south along a part of their arduous 5,500 km migration route.

This bold initiative, an adaptation of a similar program that has shown promise for Whooping Cranes in the United States, is an element of CMS' comprehensive Siberian Crane Memorandum of Understanding. CMS hopes that this "high visibility" project will contribute to crane conservation by broadening public awareness and by improving on reintroduction techniques for cranes bred in captivity.

For more information see <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms>.

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SITES IN NORTHEAST ASIA

By Simba Chan

In Japan, cranes attract many visitors to their sites. A similar trend is growing in other Asian countries, particularly in China and South Korea. Therefore cranes can be used as flagship species to promote wetland and wildlife conservation if there is a good education program at the site, and the tourist industry will also generate income to the local community in a sustainable way. However, if the sites are not well managed, an influx of visitors will cause considerable disturbance and damage to these sites. Sometime things will get worse as the result from inappropriate measures to promote tourism. In the view of this, the North East Asian Crane Site Network organised two workshops and invite important sites for cranes to develop a plan on education and ecotourism at sites important for cranes.

The Network is managed by the Wild Bird Society of Japan (BirdLife in Japan) and financed by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Strategy. It aims to encourage international cooperation on conservation of cranes and wetlands and to ensure the long-term survival of all crane species and their habitat in the region. 18 important sites (10 of which are Ramsar Sites) for crane conservation in Russia, Mongolia, China, North Korea, South Korea and Japan have joined the Network since its launch in 1997. Another 10 sites are preparing to join the Network.

The first workshop was held in March 2001, at the Yellow River Delta Nature Reserve, China. About 30 participants from 6 countries attended the workshop. At the workshop, nature reserve workers from different countries were divided into three groups to develop their own simple projects on education or visitor management. Most participants returned to a follow-up workshop at Kushiro, Hokkaido, Japan to report the results and discuss future plans on this main topic. Based on the discussion, a handbook with guidelines and examples on this theme will be published by the time of the Ramsar COP8 (November 2002).

Special study tours had been organised for the 40 participants from seven countries, including two wildlife NGO workers from Bhutan, during their stay in Kushiro. The overseas participants were impressed by the education programmes, management, and local community involvement at reserves in eastern Hokkaido. This gives them the inspiration for management at their home reserves. The workshop has also provided chances for mutual understanding of reserve workers in different Asian countries and given chances for further cooperation: Gumi in South Korea pledged to join the Network, Cholwon in South Korea proposed to hold an international workshop for the Network, China and Russia agreed to strengthen the cooperation of the Lake Khanka-Xingkai international reserve, and Chinese reserve workers plan to come back to Hokkaido and study the experience of crane site management.

The Network plans to hold a training course for the reserve workers in North East Asia (particularly those who work in Russia, Mongolia and China) on designing and conducting education programmes and ecotourism management. If fund-raising is successful, the training course will be held in Mongolia in August 2003.

The workshops are financially supported by the Société des Eaux Minérales d'Evian of the Danone Corporate Group (France), the French Global Environment Facility and the City Government of Kushiro, Japan.

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CONFERENCES

WEST & CENTRAL ASIAN SUB-REGIONAL MEETING ON THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS, 3-5 FEBRUARY 2002, TEHRAN, I.R.IRAN

The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention decided that a series of meetings should be held in 2001 and 2002 in the six Ramsar regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, the Neotropics, North America, and Oceania) to review the current implementation of the Convention and prepare for the next Conference of the Parties (COP8), to be held in November 2002.

Each sub-regional meeting would analyze the major issues and concerns that characterize the expansion of the Convention and its work in the sub-region. There would be opportunities for sharing experience and for discussions of common problems, of the major achievements, and of the needs for future actions.

The main objectives of the regional meeting in Iran were:

- a) to analyze the progress made and the obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Work Plan 2000-2002 (in particular the establishment of national targets) and the resolutions adopted by COP7;
- b) to provide training on the use of the electronic version for the National Report format to be used for preparing the reports for COP8 and the series of Ramsar handbooks published in 2000;
- c) to discuss and provide inputs for the preparation of the final draft of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008;
- d) to discuss the experience at the field level of joint implementation of the environment-related conventions with which Ramsar has Memoranda of Cooperation and/or a Joint Work Plan, in particular the Conventions on Biodiversity, Desertification, Migratory Species, and World Heritage;
- e) to discuss perceptions by Contracting Parties of the Ramsar COP: pros and cons and how to improve it; and
- f) to consider how Ramsar could improve its services to the region.

These general objectives were complemented with more specific objectives. For example, the meetings also included a specific objective to promote universal membership in the region by: 1) demonstrating to the countries that are not yet Contracting Parties the principles and work of the Ramsar Convention, and 2) encouraging the integration of wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management through cooperation with river/lake organizations.

The statements stressed the importance of the Subregional meeting in bringing together Parties to the Convention, countries preparing for accession, NGO and representatives of international organisation to review progress in wetland conservation wise use, and to identify common issues for future priority in preparation for consideration of issues at COP8. The important role of NGOs in working with governments to assist in their delivery of commitments to the Convention was also highlighted.

All Parties were required to submit comprehensive reports since these provide the essential basis for assessing progress in implementation at COP8, identifying constraints to implementation and so identifying future priorities for national, regional and global action.

After receipt of National Reports the Bureau would prepare analyses for global, regional and thematic reports for consideration by COP8.

Country reports - Contracting Parties*

The Contracting Parties reported the following issues and initiatives concerning their wetlands:

Azerbaijan

- Azerbaijan has recently acceded to the Convention.
- Its wetlands, of particular importance for migrant and wintering waterbirds, are threatened by increasing instability of water resources;
- Expanding irrigation systems are threatening some sites including the Kora and Aras wetlands;
- Oil pollution is a major problem, and a challenge is to encourage improved payment for environmental safeguards from the oil industry, both private and government sectors;
- As a new Party, there is a priority to develop a national wetlands strategy and action plan, which would contribute to a regional plan for the Caspian Region;
- Further wetlands of international importance have been identified for designation.

India

- There are over 200 national/state laws on the conservation of wetlands;
- Has established a wetland Committee; a National Conservation Policy, [National Forest Policy and National Wetland Programme];
- A Management Action Plan for wetlands has been established and priority areas for conservation identified (including 30 mangrove and 4 coral reef sites)
- For lakes there is a National Lakes Conservation Plan, and work is in progress on transboundary action plans for rivers;
- 2 new Ramsar sites have been designated with 11 more awaiting listing by the Bureau: working towards the target of 25 new sites by COP8;
- Further wetlands mapping and inventory is planned;
- Much work has been undertaken to resolve complex management problems at Chilika Lake, and a recent Ramsar Advisory Mission has reviewed the removal of the site from the Montreux Record;
- At Harike Lake, Punjab state, major threats are invasive species (water hyacinth) and water pollution, which are being tackled.

Islamic Republic of Iran

- A Ramsar sub-committee was established in 2000, as a sub-committee of the National Committee on Sustainable Development, with 15 representatives from different ministries and NGOs;
- A national Wetlands database is in the early stages of establishment;
- A study on establishing a wetlands Regional Training Research Center in the city of Ramsar is being made;
- Preparations are being made for development of management plans for 7 Ramsar sites, including through a UNDP-GEF project for 4 sites, and the encouragement of participation by local communities in the conservation of wetlands;
- Translations into Persian Language of the Ramsar Manual and some parts of the Convention's 'toolkit' is being done as a way of encouraging local understanding of Ramsar and furthering wetland conservation and wise use;
- **A UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane project is under review, which includes management actions on three wetlands in Iran;**
- Iran has been suffering severely from drought during last three years and this is causing major impacts on all wetlands, including Ramsar sites.

Pakistan

- The country has many wetlands in 4 different ecoregions (53 sites were identified in the Directory of Asian Wetlands);
- It also has one of the largest human-made irrigation systems in the world (1.6 M km²);
- 16 Ramsar sites have been designated (8 since COP7) and work is underway to designate others, but management plans have yet to be developed for all sites;
- Under the UNDP/GEF Block B Pakistan Wetlands project, management plans are being developed for four target sites;

- There are national and provincial wetland committees, and a number of strategies and plans including for coastal zone management;
- Work is underway on local community projects and on the economic valuation of wetlands;
- Legislation is in place for EIA for all projects and this is particularly important concerning the increased pressure on conversion of land for agriculture, and legislation for safeguarding wetlands has been amended with increased severity of the punishments and fines;
- An integrated management approach for the Indus water system is being developed;
- Major issues adversely affecting wetlands are the drought for the last 5-6 years, increases in human population and agricultural expansion, financial constraints and limitations in technical capacity.

Uzbekistan

- Uzbekistan is a new Party, with the Convention entering into force on 8 February 2002;
- The country has, however, a long history of nature conservation and has the necessary legislative basis for wetland conservation;
- Lake Denzikul is the first Ramsar site, providing habitat for 250 migratory bird species;
- A 1998/99 Ramsar SGF project helped develop a wetland conservation plan and prepare Lake Denzikul for designation;
- Intensive water abstraction for irrigation and recent drought has led to severe damage to any wetlands and the loss of some: in the last 30 years 33 new reservoirs and 35 new canals have been constructed;
- The loss of natural wetlands and the creation of many new artificial lakes has led to waterbirds now concentrating on the artificial wetlands;
- A further 8 wetlands are planned for designation as Ramsar sites.

Country reports - non-Contracting Parties

The non-Contracting Parties reported the following issues and initiatives concerning their wetlands:

Turkmenistan

- The country is rich in wetlands, with 92 wetlands of which 30% are on the Caspian Sea coast and the others inland, covering less than 1% of all the territory, the wetlands being of major importance for migratory waterbirds for which there is a monitoring programme;
- There is major interest in finalizing accession to the Convention, and restoring the three sites (two on the Caspian Sea coast, the other being [Kiliv Lakes] in the east) designated by the former Soviet Union to the Ramsar List.

* Only country reports of CMS members are represented -

Discussion of major issues and opportunities for improving wetland conservation and wise use in the region focused on international cooperation and transboundary systems.

Iran expressed its willingness to cooperate with Turkmenistan and Pakistan to enhance the conservation of their shared wetlands. The African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA) secretariat reported on the joint development with Ramsar of projects on waterbird flyways, including the UNEP -GEF-AEWA waterbird flyway project, the UNEP-GEF Siberian Crane Project and the recent workshop on the Central Asian-Indian flyway organized by Wetlands International and urged continuation of such collaboration.

Mr. Sadeghi Zadegan (Department of the Environment, I.R. of Iran) outlined the Siberian Crane UNEP-GEF project, which is being prepared for implementation. It will focus on two crane flyways and using the Siberian Crane as a flagship species seek to identify and manage an international network of key wetlands supporting migratory waterbirds in West and Central Asia and East Asia. Activities will be undertaken at local and regional level including capacity building and transfer of education and awareness tools and materials. The project focuses on a network of Ramsar sites, including seeking to assist designation of further sites, and links closely with the delivery of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 2001-2005 and its North East Asian Crane Site Network and the

CMS African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement. It was due to start in late 2002, but final review under the Work Programme was delayed until October 2002. If approved, the project would begin in January 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

Kanai, Y., Ueta, M., Germogenov, N., Nagendran, M., Mita, N., Higuchi, H., 2002.

Migration routes and important resting areas of Siberian Cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*) between northeastern Siberia and China as revealed by satellite tracking. *Biological conservation* 106, 339-346.

In 1995 and 1996 thirteen Siberian Cranes (*Grus leucogeranus*) were fitted with satellite transmitters on the breeding grounds in northeastern Siberia. Eleven of these 13 birds were successfully satellite tracked, and five of these 11 provided complete migratory information from their breeding grounds in Yakutia, Siberia, to their wintering area at Poyang Lake, in China. Several stopover sites were identified, the most important being in Qiqihar-Baicheng (China), Shuangtaizi River delta (China), and Yellow River delta (China). Birds rested more frequently in Russia, than in China, suggesting availability of suitable wetland habitat in Russia and absence of adequate, suitable wetland habitat in China. Wintering habitat in China also faces numerous threats. Habitats utilized by Siberian Cranes are also important to other threatened wetland birds that have been satellite-tracked recently. If Siberian Crane habitat needs fail to be addressed, this critically endangered species will be further endangered.