

**Expert Group Meeting for
Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia**

19-21 December 2005

Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Nanjing, China

Secretariat's Summary of the Meeting

The expert group meeting was hosted by the Chinese national collaborating center of the project, Nanjing Institute of Environmental Science, and attended by national experts from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and Russia. In addition, experts from key NGOs and networks working for the conservation of the target species of the project attended the meeting as resource persons or observers.

The meeting had three main topics: conservation strategy, database and pilot projects. A plenary session and group exercise were organized for each topic so as to bring about a common understanding of the project's approach among experts of different species groups, and tangible outcomes from the meeting.

On the basis of the Inception Meeting's conclusion that defines the overall approach of the three topics, the meeting aimed at drafting key components of the strategy, deciding on the mechanism of a database, and identifying pilot projects. After the meeting, participants undertook a fieldtrip to Yancheng Nature Reserve, a wintering place for cranes.

The key outcomes of the meeting are as follows.

- Identified major components of conservation strategy for all target species of the project. The strategy is built upon existing strategies and recommendations made by NGOs and international networks. The identification was also made with consideration of NEASPEC's conditions and approaches.
- Agreed on the mechanism of a web-based database using the current NEASPEC website, which will be an open-access database for the public with all national languages of NEASPEC member countries, and a portal for additional information and resources related to the conservation of the target species. The meeting also decided to request National Institute of Environmental Research of the Republic of

Korea for the creation and operation of the database since the institute currently administrates NEASPEC website.

- Reviewed proposals of pilot projects, and exchanged views in terms of the selection of projects for funding and immediate implementation. Considering the time frame of the project implementation, the Secretariat was delegated to finalize the process with revised proposals that would be submitted by national collaborating centres and national experts by the mid January 2006.
- Agreed on the procedure of project implementation and particularly the substantial roles of collaborating centres in project implementation by providing major inputs for the agreed structures of strategy and database, and jointly implementing pilot projects and undertaking other relevant national activities. In order to assist in the understanding of the procedure, a generic LOA was circulated and briefed by the Secretariat. And the formal arrangement between ESCAP and national collaborating centres will be prepared as soon as each centre's activity plans for pilot projects and national activities are finalized.

Regarding the final review meeting, the Mongolian collaborating centre expressed interest in hosting the meeting in September 2006 in Mongolia.

To sum up, activities to be undertaken in 2006 include as follows.

- Preparing draft strategy and specific action plan;
- Creating a database;
- Implementing pilot projects;
- Implementing national activities relevant to the project;
- Holding the final review meeting and
- Submitting a subregional conservation strategy, and the activity and financial report of the project to the 12th SOM of NEASPEC to be held in November 2006.