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## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Working Group on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia

First meeting  
21-22 July 2003  
Bangkok

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The First Meeting of the Working Group on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 22 July 2003. It made the following recommendations on the terms of reference of the Working Group on nature conservation, priority areas for action and follow-up activities by NEASPEC.

1. **Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Working Group on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia**

A. **Scope and Structure**

The Working Group on Nature Conservation will primarily guide and oversee the formulation, development and implementation of the Nature (Biodiversity) Conservation Programme for North-East Asia. It will provide support to the Senior Officials of the North-East Asian Subregional Programme on Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC), in identifying areas where cooperation is needed in the implementation of subregional activities on nature conservation. The Working Group shall be represented by at least one of the nominated national focal point from each of the countries in the subregion. The Working Group shall meet at least once a year.

B. **General Activities**

The working group of national focal points shall:

- a) Formulate the framework for the Nature Conservation Programme for North-East Asia. To this end the working group may propose the setting up of ad hoc expert committee(s) on specific topics that will be identified under the programme;
- b) Identify priority areas for development of projects under the Nature Conservation Programme which are directed towards a rational approach to nature conservation in the sub-region;
- c) Formulate activities on exchange of information and data base;

- d) Foster cooperation in the implementation of national and subregional activities under the ambit of the Nature Conservation Programme for North-East Asia;
- e) Develop progress reports on the implementation of the Nature Conservation Programme for North-East Asia, for presentation to the SOMs; and
- f) Serve as venue for grasping issues and problems relating to nature conservation and bring these issues to the attention of governments for cooperative action.

**C. Information related activities**

- a) Promote a network of institutions dealing with nature conservation in the respective countries; and
- b) Develop an inventory of activities related to biodiversity conservation particularly national, subregional projects including those that are funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other bilateral and multilateral agencies.

**2. Priority Areas for Nature Conservation in the subregion**

The following priority areas for action were recommended:

- a) The management of and cooperative research on nature reserves;
- b) The conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity;
- c) Ecological monitoring and conservation of marine ecosystems and coastal zones;
- d) Conservation and management of forest ecosystems;
- e) The conservation and recovery of large mammals;
- f) The conservation and management of grassland ecosystems
- g) The conservation, monitoring and cooperative research on important migratory species; and
- h) The prevention and control of alien invasive species.

**3. Follow-up activities**

- a) To collect information on the on-going programmes and projects of national and international organizations in the subregion and respective countries of North-East Asia to develop synergies between new and ongoing initiatives in the subregion with respect to nature conservation;
- b) Convene another meeting of the working group to consider new initiatives in line with on-going work. The meeting may be convened either before or immediately after SOM 9 depending on the response from the national focal points related to data collection.

**4. Other Matters**

- a) Project Proposal on the North-East Asia Subregional Cooperation in Nature Conservation

The project proposal has already been circulated to the member countries of NEASPEC and is already under consideration by them. In order to facilitate the process however, the proposal was discussed in the Working Group. The meeting recommended that the countries should expedite their review, comments and concurrence as soon as possible. The secretariat informed that the Government of Mongolia had already sent its endorsement of the project.

- b) Convening of the Ninth Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia.

In order to further consider its recommendation, the meeting suggested that the Ninth Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia should be held as soon as possible.

- c) World Climate Change Conference, Moscow, Russian Federation, 29 September to 3 October 2003.

The meeting noted with appreciation the efforts of the Government of Russian Federation in organizing the World Climate Change Conference in Moscow, Russian Federation from 29 September to 3 October 2003.