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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

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NATURE  
CONSERVATION IN NORTH-EAST ASIA**

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

*Note by the secretariat*

**I. Background**

1. At the Eighth Senior Officials Meeting on Environmental Cooperation in North-East Asia (SOM8) held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in June 2002 it was decided to initiate work on nature conservation in North-East Asia. The Meeting emphasized that stakeholders should be involved in the process and suggested areas of actions specifically on capacity building, exchange of information and expertise, data base management, scientific research and use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

2. To elaborate on the scope of work for nature conservation, the Meeting recommended to establish the working group of national focal points on nature conservation whose task will be to identify priority areas for development of projects in nature conservation, initiate exchange of information to grasp issues and problems and to bring issues to the attention of governments for cooperative action. Accordingly, terms of reference have been prepared for the consideration of this Meeting as follows:

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## **II. Suggested Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Nature Conservation**

### ***A. Scope and Structure***

3. 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 Asia 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***

4. 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 (including GIS based information), scientific research and expertise in nature conservation;
  - d) Foster cooperation in the implementation of national and subregional activities under the ambit of the National 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.
- 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.
- c) Promote collaboration in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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