

**UNITED NATIONS**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia

30 September – 1 October 2004

Bangkok, Thailand

## **DRAFT REPORT**

### **Background**

The rich natural and biodiversity resources in North-East Asia have been subject to great pressures during the last decennia, caused by expanding human activities, including rapid population growth and intensive use of natural resources. The major threats to maintenance of biodiversity and nature are: over-exploitation of natural resources, land use change, reclamation of wetlands, air, oil and aquatic environment pollution, introduction of exotic, invasive species and high-yielding varieties of grain, fruits, vegetables and livestock, and over-hunting and over-fishing.

The North-East Asian subregion is one of the richest in forestry and wildlife resources, forming part of the same bio-geographical realm and many similar species are threatened and endangered. All the countries give very high priority to nature and biodiversity conservation as part of their national environmental policy. This along with the strong political commitment of the NEASPEC member countries provides ample ground for subregional cooperation among the six countries of the subregion in ecosystems and species conservation.

The importance of a concerted action to preserve the rich nature of the North-East Asia subregion on a subregional level was recognized since the inception of the North-East Asia Subregional Environment Programme (NEASPEC) held in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 1993, when ecosystems management, deforestation and desertification in particular were included among the three main priority areas for cooperation. A working group on nature conservation was established following the recommendations from the 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting, held in Beijing, China in 2001

and during the 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting, held in Bangkok, in July 2003 a set of eight priority areas for subregional cooperation was defined.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting, held in Moscow, the Russian Federation from 2 to 4 March 2004 it was recommended to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group on Nature Conservation to focus its subregional cooperation activities on two of the priorities, i.e. --- conservation and recovery of large mammals; and --- conservation, monitoring and cooperative research on important migratory species, while formulating a project proposal for approval of the 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting to be held from 24 to 26 November 2004 in Okinawa, Japan.

To facilitate the process of identification of common needs and activities for cooperation in nature conservation, and following the recommendations of the 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting, the secretariat initiated a survey on on-going activities in the above mentioned areas in the NEASEPC member states. A questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the national focal point in Nature Conservation. The responses from the experts were then systematized, structured in a data format for easy reference and further analyzed by resource persons.

### **Proceedings**

To share and discuss the analysis and further identify the needs for common activities in nature conservation in the subregion, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia from 30 September to 1 October 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Meeting was attended by senior officials and experts dealing with nature conservation and wildlife management from China, Mongolia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. It was also attended by a representative of the Regional Office of UNCCD. The meeting was co-facilitated by resource persons funded from the NEASPEC core fund and from the Japanese Government.

The Meeting was opened by the Chief of Environment and Sustainable Development Division and welcomed by the Chief of the Environment Section of ESDD.

The workshop was held in plenary sessions with presentations and follow up discussions, and subsequently in two small group sessions. The results of the initial gaps analysis were presented and discussed in plenary, followed by the presentations from country experts prepared on the basis of the guidelines developed by the secretariat. The presentations addressed the needs and gaps concerning research, policy and

capacity building, respectively, for each of the two priority areas mentioned above.

The plenary and small group discussion sessions that followed were focused on identifying the needs for subregional activities and cooperation in the priority areas and developing the initial outline of a project framework.

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

The meeting identified a number of gaps and needs and recommended a series of major steps and activities to strengthen subregional cooperation in nature conservation, which will enhance the efforts of the NEASPEC member countries to conserve the large natural wealth of the subregion.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting identified the need for enhanced subregional cooperation in nature conservation in North-East Asia as the major precondition for the success of any joint activities. The need to strengthen subregional cooperation was described on several levels as follows:

- Strengthen the decision-making process on nature conservation in North-East Asia by establishing a Senior Nature Conservation Officials Forum.
- Development of subregional strategy for nature conservation and action plans for the conservation of threatened large mammals, mainly felines and threatened migratory birds, including pilot projects based on economic tools and participatory approach of local communities;
- Strengthen the scientific basis for problem identification by developing and implementing a harmonized system for collection, gathering, analysis and management of data on nature conservation, in particular in the areas of threatened large mammals, mainly felines and threatened migratory birds;
- Strengthen the information exchange and promotion of country experience through creating a subregional network between experts in threatened large mammals, mainly felines and threatened migratory birds;

An outline of a project proposal framework for subregional cooperation in nature conservation and a time schedule were developed, discussed in plenary and agreed. It was decided that the secretariat will assist in developing the project proposal in close cooperation and consultation with the members of the Working Group on Nature Conservation with the objective to finalize the project and submit the concept to the 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting to be held from 24 to 16 November 2004 in Okinawa, Japan. It

was also agreed that the project concept will be presented to the SOM 10 by representatives of the Working Group on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia. The secretariat will look for opportunity to hold one working session on nature conservation issues during the Expert Meeting to be held from 24 to 25 November 2004 in Okinawa, Japan.

## **Annex I**

### **Project Framework**

#### **A Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in NEA**

##### **Goal**

Rational approach to nature conservation in North-East Asia

##### **Objectives at subregional level:**

- Strengthen decision-making for nature conservation
- Improve information exchange and public awareness
- Provide effective models for implementation of nature conservation

##### **Outcome**

Established effective subregional mechanism for nature conservation

##### **Objective 1: Strengthen cooperation to enhance effective nature conservation measures**

##### **Outputs**

Subregional Strategy for Nature Conservation

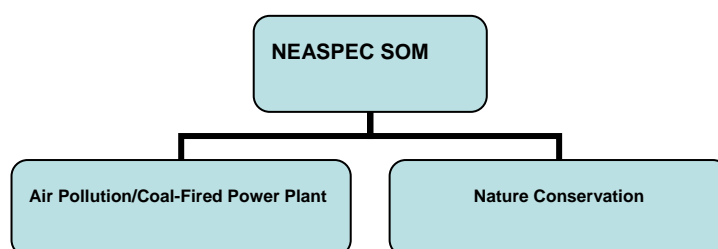
Subregional Network for nature conservation

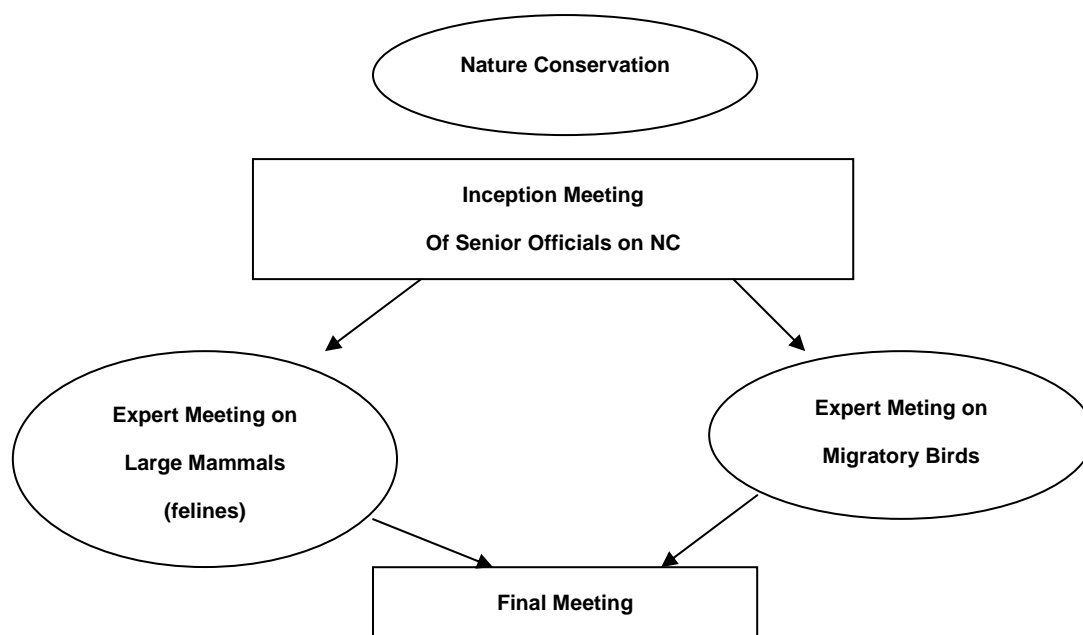
Subregional Agreement for cooperation on selected species

##### **Activities**

- Develop subregional strategy for NC
- Inception meeting for senior officials in NC
- Develop a subregional agreement for selected species
- Hold Nature Conservation Experts meetings
- Final Meeting for senior officials in NC

##### **Diagram**





## **Objective 2: Improve information exchange and public awareness**

### **Outputs**

Database on selected species

Framework for Decision Making Support System

Publications; posters; dedicated web pages on nature conservation; web forum

### **Activities**

- Develop a prioritized list of threatened species of the subregion
- Design database structure
- Collect data for selected species (linked to the models of the Objective 3)
- Design framework for DMSS
- Design interface for DMSS
- Design software for DMSS
- Develop software for DMSS
- Develop materials for public awareness (linked to the models of Objective 3)

## **Objective 3: Providing effective models for implementation of nature conservation for selected species**

### **Outputs**

- Effective model for mammals – large felines
- Effective model for migratory birds
- Designated flagship demonstration sites for in-situ and ex-situ nature conservation in NEA

### **Activities for Model I and Model II, respectively**

- Identify key experts and stakeholders
- Inception meeting at subregional level with international experts to define the needs for conservation of species, and develop a workplan for the model activities
- Implement the workplan, including data collection
- Establish designated flagship demonstration sites for in-situ and ex-situ nature conservation in NEA
- Develop a subregional conservation action plan, including project proposals
- Exchange visits, study tours
- Final Meeting

### **Annex II**

#### **Time Schedule for Preparation of the Project Proposal**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Converting the discussions into a draft proposal document, and sending to all country representatives	JP, AN	October 8
Comments on draft by countries		October 18
Revised project document, send back to countries		October 28
Final revisions by countries		November 10
Final Proposal		November 15
<b>Submitting the proposal to SOM10</b>		<b>November 17</b>
Consideration by SOM10		November 24-27
Revised final project proposal		December 15

### **Annex III**

#### **List of Documents distributed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation in North-East Asia**

Opening Statement

Guidelines for country reports

Country Report of China

Country Report of China – PowerPoint Presentation

National Report of Republic of Korea – PowerPoint Presentation

Country Report of Russia

Country Report of Russia – PowerPoint Presentation

3rd Working Group Meeting on Nature Conservation – Overview PowerPoint Presentation

Questionnaire/survey analysis – PowerPoint Presentation

Questionnaire/survey Species Analysis

Project Development Process – Overview PowerPoint Presentation

The project outline – PowerPoint Presentation

The Time schedule – PowerPoint Presentation