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

The Eleventh Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Environmental Cooperation  
in North-East Asia

25-26 October 2005  
Seoul, the Republic of Korea

**REVIEW OF PROGRAMME PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

(Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda)

**THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NATURE  
CONSERVATION PROGRAMME IN NORTH-EAST ASIA**

*Note by the Secretariat*

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## I. Progress to Date

1. The project “A Framework for a Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia”, which was approved by the tenth Senior Officials Meeting in 2004, aims to assist NEASPEC member countries in undertaking joint action on nature conservation. In order to achieve the goal, the project was designed to develop a subregional conservation strategy and action plan, a common methodology for data collection and management, and activities for awareness-raising. In addition, the project was planned to select target species among feline animals and migratory birds, and to combine in-situ and ex-situ conservation methods so as to formulate a more feasible and effective mechanism for subregional action.

2. Based on the project concept and its work plan, the Inception Meeting of the project was held on 18-21 July 2005 in Chuncheon, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Kumkang Nature Reserve, Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea (DPRK). The meeting was attended by government officials and experts of feline animals and migratory birds from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The meeting consisted of two main parts: 1) discussion sessions on the approach and plan of the project on 18 - 19 July; and 2) study tours to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) of Kangwon Province, ROK and the Kumkang Mountain, DPRK’s nature reserve on 20 - 21 July.

3. The discussion sessions reviewed past and ongoing subregional nature conservation projects, and focused on how to arrange a project framework which could achieve concrete impact and visibility. The meeting also finalized the selection of target species, the overall direction of the nature conservation strategy and action plan, the approach of database development and data collection, working modalities and collaboration with other organizations.

4. After the two-day session, all the participants undertook a study tour to DMZ areas in the ROK and Kumkang Nature Reserve of DPRK to understand the need of transboundary cooperation for nature conservation.

5. The conclusion of the Meeting is attached in Annex 1 and the key outcomes are as follows:

- Finalized the selection of six target species on the basis of their significance and commonality in subregional nature conservation. The target species consist of three species of feline animals and three species of migratory birds;
- Agreed to formulate and undertake practical and action-oriented activities as pilot projects, while the project will have a focus on the creation of a subregional strategy and action plan;
- Agreed to compile existing data sets in order to create a database, which will be a basis for subregional action; and

- Agreed to promote active participation of stakeholders including NGOs, academic institutes, and local authorities in the implementation process in order to create more tangible and visible impacts with minimum resources.

6. Since the Inception Meeting, the Secretariat has followed up with national focal points to designate national collaborating centres which will assume the role for providing required national input to develop a database, a subregional conservation strategy and action plan for target species. The nominated centres include Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, SEPA in China, National Institute of Environmental Research in the Republic of Korea, Japan Wildlife Research Center in Japan, and Irbis Mongolia in Mongolia. And the nomination of a Russian centre should be completed as soon as possible for the timely preparation of the subsequent expert group meeting.

7. In addition, Japan Wildlife Research Center, the partner institute for project implementation, has been compiling existing national, regional and global strategies on conservation of the target species. Based on the outcomes of the working group and the Inception Meeting and information from relevant strategies, the center has developed a draft structure of subregional strategy and action plan as attached Annex 2.

## **II. Future Activities and Approaches**

8. Major planned activities after the 11<sup>th</sup> SOM include the organization of several expert group meetings, *inter alia*, to develop a basic database of target species, prepare the subregional strategy and action plan, identify pilot projects to obtain tangible outcomes during the current the project period, and produce public awareness materials.

9. In particular, the Secretariat plans to organize an expert group meeting early December, 2005 in China to finalize the identification of key components of database, review the development of a strategy and action plan, identify the possible pilot projects, and decide roles and responsibilities of national collaborating centres. Meanwhile, the Secretariat in collaboration with Japan Wildlife Research Center is preparing the background documents on subregional strategy and action plan, data collection, and other relevant information on the conservation of target species. The Secretariat will also work towards the finalization of the institutional arrangement with designated national collaborating centres before the expert group meeting.

10. With a view to further enhancing the prospects for obtaining concrete outcomes from the current project, as well as for creating a continuing basis for future cooperation, the Secretariat has been applying a number of practical and realistic measures, in particular, to improve the cost-effectiveness of the project implementation, which includes the following:

- The Secretariat is making its best efforts to coordinate activities with the existing knowledge base and initiatives regarding nature conservation in North-East Asia in

formulating the subregional strategy and action plan, and in turn contribute to building synergies among the initiatives;

- Also, the Secretariat plans to expand preliminary contacts or arrangements with institutions specialized in ex-situ conservation of the endangered species, considering that the project concept notes the significance of not only in-situ but also ex-situ conservation; and
- The Secretariat revised the project budget to help produce more tangible outcomes from available resources, as attached in Annex 3. The revised budget, particularly, contains \$ 75,000 for pilot projects, which will be identified and decided through communication with national collaborating centres and expert group meetings.

### **III. Issues for Consideration**

11. The Meeting may wish to comment on the overall direction and implementation arrangements for the current project with a view to ensuring their responsiveness to environment and development challenges in the subregion.

12. The Meeting may wish to provide with specific guidance for particular implementation aspects of the project, such as structure of the subregional action plan framework, coordination with existing initiatives and building synergies; practical means to undertake the project in a cost-effective manner while enhancing the prospects for tangible outcomes, etc.

13. The Meeting may wish to call for more proactive participation of the designated centres in the implementation of the current project, with a view that these centres could continue as collaborating centres for future NEASPEC activities for the subsequent period.

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## ANNEX 1

### UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Inception Meeting of Framework for Nature Conservation Programme  
in North-East Asia

18-21 July 2005  
Chuncheon, the Republic of Korea

### CONCLUSION

1. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in collaboration with member countries of NEASPEC organized the Inception Meeting of Framework for Nature Conservation Programme in North-East Asia from 18 to 21 July 2005 in Chuncheon, the Republic of Korea. The Meeting was attended by government officials and experts of feline animals and migratory birds from China, Mongolia, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

2. The Meeting was opened by Mr. Rae kwon Chung, the Chief of Environment and Sustainable Development Division and welcomed by Mr. Bunam Shin, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and Dr. Hyun-sub Choi, President of Kangwon National University.

3. The inception meeting was held in plenary sessions with presentations on previous nature conservation in North-East Asia, the overview of nature conservation project and each country's position on major topic of the project, and was followed by discussion sessions and working group sessions. The inception meeting also included study tour to Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in the Republic of Korea and Kumkang Nature Reserve in Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

4. The meeting intended to develop the overall approach of the project, and reached consensus as follows:

1) Selection of target species: The delegates of NEASPEC member countries agreed that target species should have a specific focus, but also that the target species should be shared as many member states as possible. And the delegates agreed to designate 3 feline animals and 3 migratory birds as target species of the project. The feline animals include Snow leopard, Amur leopard and Amur tiger. The target species of migratory birds include White-naped crane, Black-faced spoonbill, and Hooded crane. However, a concern over the focus and effectiveness of project was also expressed by some delegates as the target species consist of 6 species. Delegates also recognized the possibility to have different approach for each target species during the project implementation in order to promote the effectiveness of the project.

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2) Overall approach of the project: The delegates shared a common view on the significance of having practical and action-oriented approach, and building partnership with existing activities and networks. In particular, the delegates noted that the project should avoid the duplication of the existing activities, but should be built on the existing schemes in order to create synergies, and maximize the impact and visibility of the project. On the basis of this consensus, working group discussions identified potential governmental and nongovernmental partners, and their activities.

3) Database Development: Having considered the nature and financial condition of the project, the delegates agreed that the project would focus on compilation of existing data sets or database instead of developing a common methodology of data collection. The delegate also shared a view that the creation of DMSS would not be feasible for this project. On the basis of the consensus, the delegates identified available data sets and database, and discussed the major components of required database.

4) Overall work plan: The delegates were of the view that the activity components and budget of the project should be revised to include pilot projects which have practical and concrete impacts during the next two years. The Secretariat will propose revised project budget and activity components at the 11<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC in October/November 2005. The draft proposal will be circulated at least one month prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> SOM.

5) Role of collaborating centers, experts and partners: The delegates agreed to designate a primary collaboration center and project experts in each country, responsible for providing required national input to develop database, subregional conservation strategy and action plan for target species. In addition, the delegates agreed to explore the possibility of including other stakeholder groups as major partners.

6) Working modalities: The delegates recognized the significance of creating an information hub, and the website of NEASPEC managed by the NIER of the ROK as a potential facilitator of information sharing.

7) Next expert meeting: As the initially planned schedule of an expert meeting would not be feasible due to time frame for practical work, the delegates agreed to postpone the meeting until late 2005. In addition, it was suggested that we explore potential means of collaboration with other ongoing projects and meetings related with target species identified for this project such as Amur tiger and leopard meeting in Harbin in November 2005.

## ANNEX 2

### Draft Structure of Sub-regional Action Plan Framework

1. Introduction
  - 1.1. Background of the project
    - Feature of NEASPEC (i.e. sub-regional inter-governmental framework)
    - History including the selection of target species
  - 1.2. Overall Goals
    - Promotion of transboundary and inter-governmental cooperation among sub-region and enhancement of the conservation of target species
  - 1.3. Overall approach
    - Build on existing schemes and create synergies, promote partnership with existing activities and networks
2. Amur tiger
3. Amur leopard
4. Snow leopard
5. Black-faced spoonbill
6. Hooded crane
7. White-naped crane

(For each species)

#### X.1. Species status

X.1.1 General information of the species (Taxonomy, Life history)

X.1.2 Distribution and population

X.1.3 State of ex-situ population

X.1.4 Threats

X.1.5 Current Conservation Activities and needs

#### X.2. Species-specific strategy

(examples)

- For large felines – transboundary cooperation in protected areas management
- For migratory birds – enhancing support for Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy and Action Plan for the Black-faced Spoonbill

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### X.3. Priority Actions for NEASPEC

(This section could be a table of following components)

- Objectives and expected Outputs

- Actions

- Time frame

(examples of actions)

- Information sharing and networking

- Set up of common database for conservation decision-making

- Joint research/monitoring

- Joint management of species/habitats

- Joint programs in ex-situ propagation

- Joint trainings

- Joint awareness-raising activities

### 8. Priority species/activity focused section

8.1. Pilot projects (results and lessons)

8.2. Project proposals for the next step of collaboration

### **Annexes**

List of existing sub-regional strategies and action plans

List of existing networks and activities

List of recent projects

List of existing data sets and database

List of potential partners

List of useful information

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### ANNEX 3.

#### REVISED BUDGET

UNBL	Description	Total Budget (US\$)	Revised Budget (US\$)
<b>10</b>	<b>Personnel</b>		
1101	Project Staff	10,000	10,000
1151	Consultant for development of economic incentives study	10,000	
1154	Consultant for development of public awareness materials	12,000	12,000
1301	Research/programme assistants	14,000	14,000
1501	Staff Travel	10,000	10,000
<i>1900</i>	<i>Component Total</i>	<i>56000</i>	<i>46,000</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>Subcontracts / Grants</b>		
2201	Subcontacts with national collaborating centres	60,000	60,000
2202	Development of Database	10,000	10,000
2203	Monitoring and Evaluation	2,000	2,000
2204	Subcontract for development of a project imrplemnetation plan, strategy action plan and data collection methodology (6 months)	28,000	28,000
2205	Subcontract for pilot projects		75,000
<i>2900</i>	<i>Component Total</i>	<i>100000</i>	<i>175,000</i>
<b>30</b>	<b>Training</b>		
3201	Inception, 2 Experts and a Final Meeting	105,000	85,000
3202	Data Development and Management Meeting	25,000	
3203	Exchange Visits	20,000	
<i>3900</i>	<i>Component Total</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>85,000</i>
<b>40</b>	<b>Equipment</b>		
4501	Computer Hardware / Software	7,000	7,000
<i>4900</i>	<i>Component Total</i>	<i>7,000</i>	<i>7,000</i>
<b>50</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
5201	Printing Costs	10,000	10,000
5301	Sundry	2,500	2,500
5600	PSC	42315	42,315
<i>5900</i>	<i>Component Total</i>	<i>54,815</i>	<i>54,815</i>
<b>99</b>	<b>Project Total</b>	<b>367815</b>	<b>367,815</b>

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