

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**

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

(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.