

Concept Note

Consultation Meeting on the Project “Connectivity Conservation for Habitats of Flagship Migratory Birds in North-East Asia”

10 September 2025

6th Floor, G-Tower, ESCAP East and North-East Asia Office
Incheon, Republic of Korea

Background

North-East Asia contains some crucial habitats of critically endangered species across countries that form the ecological connectivity beyond national borders. In 2007, in recognition of this ecological importance, NEASPEC member States identified six flagship species (Amur tiger, Amur leopard, Snow leopard, Black-faced Spoonbill, White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane) as conservation priorities in the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy adopted at the 12th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM-12).

In alignment with this Strategy and building upon the recommendations of previous projects, NEASPEC is implementing the project titled “**Connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship migratory birds in North-East Asia (Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)**” in 2024-2027. Funded by the Government of the Russian Federation, this project includes three main components:

- 1) assessment of the demographics of the three flagship species and the impacts of environmental, social, and economic conditions
- 2) analytical studies which assess the impacts of agricultural activities energy infrastructure development on the species and their habitats; and
- 3) capacity building activities among stakeholders, especially empowering youth and women.

The project is to be implemented in collaboration with external partners with proven expertise in migratory bird conservation, capacity building, and regional coordination among NEASPEC member States. Under **Component 1**, implementing partners will conduct demographic assessments of the target species and evaluate the impacts of various external pressures on their habitats. These efforts will include simultaneous monitoring across multiple key sites to ensure comparable and coordinated data across the subregion.

In this context, this **Consultation Meeting** will convene implementing partners to plan their project implementation, coordinate efforts, and define the scope of monitoring, including the selection of sites and methodologies. This meeting will serve as a vital platform for partners to align strategies, share technical expertise, and ensure the effective cross-border implementation of the project.

Objectives

The consultation meeting aims to enable implementing partners to:

- Coordinate on activity planning, site selection, monitoring methodologies, data analysis, and reporting mechanisms with other implementing partners.

- Plan and implement simultaneous monitoring at key sites to update the demographic information and assess the status of habitats of the target migratory birds.
- Conduct tailored analysis of environmental and socio-economic impacts on the target species.
- Develop policy recommendations, including coordinated actions for the conservation of the target species and their habitats, in collaboration with other implementing partners.

Expected outcomes

The consultation meeting is expected to contribute to the effective implementation of Component 1 of the project through:

- Increased knowledge and capacity to assess, monitor, and manage target species and their habitats.
- Improved coordination among implementing partners to conserve target species through simultaneous monitoring.

Provisional Programme

Consultation Meeting (10 September, Wednesday)	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 09:20	Opening session - Opening remarks: Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of ESCAP East and North-East Asia office - Group photo
09:20 – 10:40	Session 1. Coordination on Activity Planning - Collaborative review of the Letters of Agreement (LOAs) - Coordination on activity planning, site selection, monitoring methodologies, data analysis, and reporting mechanisms.
10:40 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:30	Session 2. Simultaneous Monitoring Plan for simultaneous monitoring at key sites to update the demographic information and assess the status of habitats of the target species.
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:20	Session 3. Tailored Analysis of Environmental and Socio-economic Impacts on the Target Species Plan for tailored analysis of environmental and socio-economic impact on the target species.
15:20 – 15:40	Break
15:40 – 17:00	Session 4. Policy Recommendations Plan the development of policy recommendations, including coordinated actions for the conservation of the target species.
18:00 – 19:30	Dinner