

## Hooded Crane



### VERTEBRATA

**Order:** Carnivora

**Family:** Felidae

**Genus:** Panthera

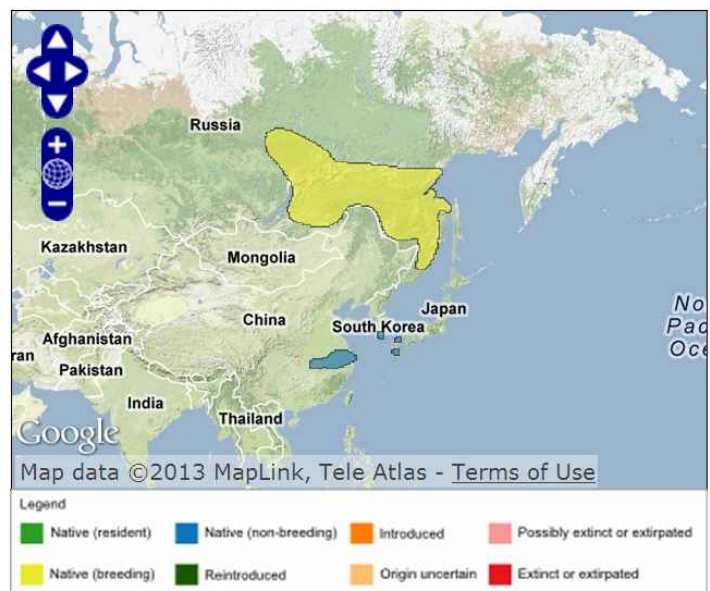
**Category:** 1 – critically endangered species at the territory of Russia

The hooded crane (*Grus monacha*) is a small, dark crane, categorized as 'vulnerable' by IUCN.

### Distribution and Population:

The estimated population of the species is approximately 9,200. The breeding grounds of this species are in south-eastern Siberia, Russian Federation, and northern China. More than 80 per cent of hooded cranes spend the winter at Izumi Feeding Station on the Japanese island of Kyushu. Small numbers are found at Yashiro in southern Japan (8,000 for wintering), in the Republic of Korea (100 for wintering) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (100 for wintering), and at several sites along the middle Yangtze River in China (1,000 for breeding and wintering).

### Distribution of Hooded Crane



**Source: BirdLife International Species Factsheet (2013): *Crus Monacha***

Hooded cranes nest and feed in isolated sphagnum bogs scattered through the taiga in the southeastern Russian Federation, and in China, in forested wetlands in mountain valleys. Non-breeding birds are found in shallow open wetlands, natural grasslands, and agricultural fields in

southern Siberia and north-eastern Mongolia. During migration, hooded cranes often associate with Eurasian and white-naped cranes.

**Physical features and habitats:**

Adult crowns are un-feathered, red, and covered with black hair-like bristles. The head and neck are snow white, which extends down the neck. The body plumage is otherwise slaty gray. The primaries, secondaries, tail, and tail coverts are black. Juvenile crown are covered with black and white feathers during the first year, and exhibit some brownish or grayish wash on their body feathers. Eye colour is hazel yellow to orange brown, legs and toes are nearly black. Males and females are virtually indistinguishable, although males tend to be slightly larger in size.

Like other cranes, unison calling, display of feather and dancing are important means in courtship and pair bond enhancement for hooded cranes. They nest in isolated, widely scattered bogs in the taiga and in other forested wetlands. Mossy areas are preferred with widely scattered larch trees. Nests are constructed of damp moss, peat, sedge stalks and leaves, and branches of larch and birch. Females usually lay two eggs and incubation (by both sexes) lasts 27-30 days. The male takes the primary role in defending the nest against possible danger. Chicks fledge (first flight) at approximately 75 days.

All cranes are omnivorous. Hooded cranes diet includes aquatic plants, berries, insects, frogs, salamanders, roots, rhizomes, seeds, grass, and small animals. At artificial feeding stations in the Republic of Korea and Japan, hooded cranes eat rice, wheat, and other cereal grains.

**Priority actions for NEASPEC:**

1. Encourage member countries to develop an official conservation network for hooded crane in collaboration with the existing site network and coordinating activities.
2. Encourage member countries to involve local public in planning and implementation of conservation work as well as local development to reflect their interest and needs and increase habitat so that over-concentration will be avoided.
3. Encourage member countries to strengthen management and improve habitat.
4. Encourage member countries to conduct joint survey or monitoring with neighbouring countries.
5. Encourage member countries to conduct joint research on habitat assessment.

6. Support member countries to work together in capacity-building on habitat management, population management, monitoring and research, law enforcement, environmental education and community development.
7. Promote awareness raising on conservation needs of the species in each Government as well as general public and international community.
8. Improve and strengthen management of habitats and species.