

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Expert Group Meeting and the 14th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC
8-9 April 2009, Moscow, the Russian Federation

Annotated Provisional Programme of the EGM

| 8 April 2009 (Wednesday) | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Remarks by ESCAP• Welcoming Remarks by the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation |
| 10:30 – 12:30 | Session 1: Project on the Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants <p>The Asian Development Bank approved the project on “Mitigation of Transboundary Air Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants” in December 2006 and subsequently ADB and ESCAP had a series of consultations with member countries. However, it has not been possible to implement most components due to delays in institutional arrangements with member countries. In order to respond to ADB’s administrative problems associated with the delay, the Secretariat proposes to review approaches and activity components of the project, so that the project could be reformulated in such a way that the project meets emerging policy demands of the member countries. In this regard, EGM will discuss co-benefits approach that simultaneously addresses air pollution and greenhouse gases emissions, and seek for the possibility of incorporating potential activities of this approach into the project.</p> <p>Thus, this session will review the progress in the project implementation and the need for revising potential approaches and components of the project in order to break the deadlock over the project implementation.</p> <p>In this regard, national experts are kindly requested to make presentation on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The relevance and significance of the current four components of the project;- The relevance and significance of undertaking co-benefits approach, targeting the mitigation of both air pollutants and greenhouse gases emissions;- The current national policies, programmes and progress with regard to co-benefits approach;- Appropriate new national arrangements for the implementation of the |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| | <p>project if it includes components on co-benefits approach; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other policy and technical information relevant to the project. |
| | <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCAP: Review of the project components and implementation challenges • National experts from all member countries |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 16:00 | <p>Session 2: Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas</p> <p>Based on the Nature Conservation Strategy adopted by the 12th SOM, the Secretariat had consultations with the Russian Government for financing a follow-up project as the annual collaborative programme between the Russian Federation and ESCAP. And the Government kindly decided to finance a project on nature conservation in transboundary areas.</p> <p>Thus, this session will review the proposal of a new project, “Coordination Mechanisms for Nature Conservation in Transboundary Areas in North-East Asia” focusing on the Lower Tumen River Area encompassing China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. As recommended by the 13th SOM, this project is proposed to be an official NEASPEC project.</p> <p>Thus, national experts are kindly requested to make presentation on the following issues in order to finalize the project proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The relevance and significance for multilateral/bilateral arrangements for ecological networks in North-East Asia; - The relevance and significance of the proposed approaches and components of the project; - Appropriate implementation process and modality of the project; - Potential linkages of the project with overall transboundary cooperation on nature conservation and other relevant subregional and national initiatives in North-East Asia; and - Other relevant comments and suggestions. |
| | <p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESCAP: Review of the NEASPEC Action on Nature Conservation and the Project Proposal • National experts from all member countries |
| 16:00-16:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other matters |
| 16:30-17:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary and Recommendation of the Meeting |

Annex I. Summary of the Project on “Mitigation of Transboundary Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants in North East Asia”

Transboundary air pollutions have been recognized as one of most serious regional environmental challenges in North-East Asia. Among air pollutants, sulphur dioxide (SO₂), particularly, emitted from coal-fired power plants is a major regional environmental issue in North-East Asia. Thus, NEASPEC and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have undertaken technical assistance (TA) projects to support collaboration among Northeast Asian countries to mitigate transboundary air pollutions from coal-fired power plants. Based on the outcomes of two projects, completed in 1998 and 2004, respectively, ADB and UNESCAP, as the secretariat of NEASPEC, in consultation with NEASPEC countries have developed a third technical assistance project titled “Mitigation of Transboundary Pollution from Coal-fired Power Plants in North East Asia”, which was officially approved by ADB in December 2006 for the implementation from the subsequent year.

Thus, the project particularly aims to attain enhanced environmental cooperation among NEASPEC member countries relating to transboundary air pollution, increased technical capacity and knowledge transfer regarding prevention and management of transboundary pollution, and enhanced capacity for management of coal-fired power plant emissions in Mongolia through development of emission standards.

- (i) **Component 1. Air Pollution Abatement Plans:** Activities include (a) preparation of abatement plans, (b) audits of the priority emission sources to identify required infrastructure installations, (c) development of project pre-feasibility studies, and (d) assessment of benefits to transboundary pollution from implementation of the abatement plans.
- (ii) **Component 2. SO₂ Emission Regulation and Compliance:** Activities include (a) assessment of compliance issues relating to SO₂ emission regulation policy implementation, and (b) preparation of recommendations on regulatory and market-based compliance management for SO₂ emission control.
- (iii) **Component 3. Mongolian Power Plant Emission Standards:** Activities focus on providing assistance to develop emission standards and other regulatory documentation for coal-fired power plants.
- (iv) **Component 4. Knowledge Transfer and Dissemination:** Activities include (a) training workshops for power plant staff, (b) regional workshops and site visits, (c) transboundary air pollution seminars or expert workshops, and (d) dissemination materials.

Annex II. Summary of the Nature Conservation Project Proposal

Background

The 12th Senior Officials Meeting of NEASPEC unanimously endorsed the NEASPEC Resolution on the Framework of Nature Conservation Programme and NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy. The Strategy identifies a concrete subregional conservation approach with specific strategies to protect six flagship species, which are critically endangered and unique to the subregion. Having developed the Strategy, NEASPEC is determined to take a further step to promote the Strategy by piloting some of its key recommendations in a transboundary area of high biological importance. Based on the core principle of the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Programme, the important linkage between nature conservation and sustainable development, as well as cross-boarder cooperation will be the main driving forces of the piloting.

As transboundary areas are often the periphery of major socioeconomic development, they have potentials to keep untouched nature from human activities. But this situation also causes lacking the appropriate enforcement of legal and administrative provisions pertaining to biodiversity conservation. Thus, multilateral and bilateral cooperation for the protection of natural resources and endangered species in transboundary areas have been perceived as a significant means to achieve national and global mandates on biodiversity conservation. Practical approaches for such cooperation are suggested to create coordination mechanisms between national protected areas adjoining international borders or unified protected areas such as Transboundary Protected Areas or Transboundary Biosphere Reserves, which contribute to not only coordinated actions on biodiversity conservation but also environmental confidence building among states as well as local stakeholders sharing an international border.

To this end, the project plans to carry out a follow-up project at the Lower Tumen River basin, which encompasses parts of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation. The basin is home to both Amur Tiger and Amur Leopard, and part of either breeding grounds or migration corridors of White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane. All four are identified as the subregion's flagship species in the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy. With regard to the NEASPEC flagship species, there are nearly a dozen or more key protected areas along the international borders in the subregion, particularly along the borders with the Russian Federation (RF). Those protected areas include: (i) the Tunkinskiy Natural Park of Mongolia, and Daurskiy Zapovednik and Ubsunurskaya Kotlovina Zapovednik of the RF; (ii) Jilin Hunchun Nature Reserve and Heilongjiang Mudanfeng Nature Reserve of China, and Kedrovaya Pad Zapovednik, Bolshekhkhehtsirskiy Zapovednik, and Khankaiskiy Zapovednik of the RF; and (iii) the Far

East Marine Reserve and Khansanskii Nature Park of the RF and Rason Migratory Bird Reserve of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPPK); (iv) Changbai Biosphere Reserve of China and Paekdu Biosphere Reserve of DPRK. However, there are only a few systems installed for coordination and management of these adjacent protected areas, and because of this, nature conservation efforts by the NEASPEC member states have been faced with large setbacks and challenges.

Undertaking this project will particularly take advantage of initiatives lead by UNESCO, the Secretariat of Greater Tumen Initiative and UNDP to strengthen transboundary cooperation. While those initiatives were not able to create formal mechanisms for environmental cooperation in the transboundary area, the processes and outcomes of the initiatives provide NEASPEC with a valuable ground for further work. Thus, NEASPEC will ensure that this project fully reflects all important experiences and lessons-learned from previous initiatives into its goals and approaches. Moreover, the project will engage all member countries, which are not directly involved in this proposal such as Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Mongolia, to provide additional support.

Project Outcome and Approaches

The major expected outcome is the establishment of a coordination mechanism for nature conservation in transboundary areas among China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation in order to overcome conservation and sustainable development challenges in protecting flagship and endangered species.

On the technical front, the project will rigorously explore ways in which the following areas of focus can be effectively addressed and demonstrated:

- A. Cross-boarder efforts on biodiversity monitoring, data collecting and sharing, particularly on those flagship species;
- B. Cross-boarder patrolling against any illegal logging and poaching under a common operational and legal platforms;
- C. Cross-boarder planning for sustainable local/ buffer-zone development through awareness raising, promoting sustainable livelihood options, local branding and labeling of sustainably harvested Non-Timber-Forest Products(TNFPs), etc., to support sustainable local development;

- D. Cross-boarder improvement of systemic and institutional capacities of the basin's protected areas to provide the enabling framework for establishing and managing a transboundary nature conservation mechanism;
- E. Cross-boarder cooperation to promote cohesive sustainable land management in areas surrounding the protected areas so as to maximize land use effectiveness, and to reduce unnecessary human encroachment into protected areas; and
- F. Facilitation of the NEASPEC-wide cooperation in nature conservation - e.g., technical support from Japan and Republic of Korea in biodiversity monitoring and data management, and knowledge sharing by Mongolia on its experience with the Altai-Sayan and Daurian Forest Steppe Ecoregions.