

Expert Group Meeting on Promoting Transboundary Cooperation among Protected Wetlands in the Tumen River Estuary

15 May 2020 (Seoul Time)

Background

This Expert Group Meeting offers an opportunity to deliberate with country and international partners as ESCAP is forging an initiative and partnership on transboundary cooperation on wetlands between China, Russia and DPRK in the Tumen River Estuary.

In May 2019, UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office, in the capacity of the Secretariat of North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation ([NEASPEC](#)), worked with national experts from China and the Russian Federation to develop a preliminary study on transboundary cooperation among protected wetlands in the Tumen River Estuary. The study aims to review the conservation of targeted sites¹ and their socio-economic conditions, evaluate the feasible steps towards strengthening and institutionalizing the transboundary cooperation among the protected wetlands, and develop concrete recommendations.

As this preliminary study has entered into the stage of finalization, experts are invited to a virtual meeting to review the key findings and recommendations of the report and deliberate on the way forward to promoting transboundary cooperation among countries and partners.

Objectives

- a. Valid the conclusion and recommendations of the draft preliminary report;
- b. Develop tangible ideas and proposed activities to be further operationalized under NEASPEC.

The meeting will be composed of two sessions, including a session for report authors to fine tune the recommendations and an extended session to review the findings and

¹ Targeted sites of the study include: Rason Migratory Bird Reserve, DPRK; Fangchuan National Park and Jingxin wetland, China; and Khasansky Nature Park, Primorsky Krai, the Russian Federation.

discuss on the possible approaches and modalities of future cooperation engaging with international organizations and key partners.

Provisional Programme

(local time Seoul)

SESSION 1	REFINE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS (REPORT AUTHORS ONLY)
10:00-10:05	<p>Introduction by ESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the final draft report • Introduce scope and structure of discussion (focus on recommendations) • Goal of the session: Sharpen conclusions and fine tune recommendations
10:05-10:30	<p>Update on new data since last round of revision and review recommendations received by May 10 (<i>moderate by ESCAP</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the report (<i>5 min each author</i>) • Review the conclusions and updated recommendations (<i>10min</i>)
10:30-11:30	<p>Finalize conclusions and recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key elements for future course of action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy recommendations and action-oriented proposals ○ Transboundary cooperation and modality at multiple levels (including process design and target groups to be engaged) ○ Scope of activities and approaches • Conclude the key findings and messages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significance of individual wetland and wetlands dispersed in the lower Tumen area as a whole ○ Implications for transboundary cooperation and modalities ○ Proposed actions
	<p><i>* Report authors may continue the discussion should more time be needed and prepare their inputs for Session 2</i></p>

SESSION 2	EXPERT DISCUSSION (JOINED BY KEY STAKEHOLDERES)
Moderator	Mr. Sangmin Nam, Deputy Head, UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office
16:00 – 16:05	<p>Opening and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remark by Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce the initiative and current work on promoting transboundary cooperation in the Tumen River estuary ○ Introduce the purpose and participants of the expert group meeting
16:05 – 16:15	<p>Overview of the study on “Promoting Transboundary Cooperation among Protected Wetlands in the Tumen River Estuary”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the key findings and recommendations of the report <i>by the author group (a representative)</i> • Introduce key elements of an action-oriented proposal (Output of Session 1) <i>by ESCAP</i>
16:15 – 17:15	<p>Discussion/ comments on the report conclusion and recommendations <i>by each participating organization</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments should focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transferable knowledge: What are the experience and lessons learnt that can be- shared on transboundary cooperation on wetlands protection? ○ Approaches: How to implement the vision and recommendations? ○ Modalities: What are the key stakeholders to be engaged and what could be the feasible modalities?
17:15 – 17:30	Summary of discussion and conclusion