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## 1. Project information

### 1.1. General Information

<b>Project Title</b>	Connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship migratory birds in North-East Asia (Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)
<b>Project number</b>	
<b>Estimated Start and End Dates</b>	January 2024 to December 2026 (36-month implementation period upon receipt of fund)
<b>Subprogramme / Programme of Work</b>	Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SOENEA)
<b>Responsible Division/Office</b>	Subregional Office for East and North-East Asia (SOENEA)
<b>Other implementing division(s) or office(s)</b>	Environment and Development Division (EDD)
<b>Target Countries/Sub-Region(s)</b>	Member States in East and North-East Asia (China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation)
<b>Subprogramme deliverables</b>	Subprogramme 8: Subregional activities for development Component 2: Subregional activities for development in East and North-East Asia, B. Generation and transfer of knowledge
<b>Relevant SDG Goals, target(s) and SDG indicator(s)</b>	SDG 13. Climate Action SDG 14. Life below Water Target 14.5 by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information SDG 15. Life on Land Target 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species SDG 17. Partnerships for the goals Target 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
<b>Gender markers</b>	GEM1
<b>Target group(s)</b>	Government officials (Ministry of Environment), research institutes, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local stakeholders in the targeted countries (China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation)
<b>External partner(s)</b>	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office
<b>Proposed funding sources</b>	Russian Federation
<b>Total project budget</b>	US\$ 299,789
<b>Coordination levy</b>	N/A

## 1.2. Executive summary of the project

The North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) established in 1993 has been uniquely positioned to support six ESCAP member States in East and North-East Asia (i.e. China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation) to promote subregional environmental cooperation in five thematic priorities; one of which is biodiversity and nature conservation. NEASPEC has been tailored to the specific subregional characteristics and needs of the member States.

Within this context, this proposed project aligns with the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy adopted by the member States, targeting the three flagship migratory bird species (i.e. Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes) and their habitats to facilitate member States' transboundary cooperation and enhance their capacity for monitoring, assessing and managing the conservation of the three species and their habitats.

Noting Black-faced Spoonbills are endangered and the Hooded Cranes and White-naped Cranes are threatened species listed by IUCN,<sup>1</sup> the proposed project directly contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Sustainable Development Goals 13 (Climate action), 15 (Life on land) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals), the ESCAP's Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific, and the regional conservation efforts strengthened by various actors from governments to grassroots.

Built upon recommended actions from previous projects conducted by SRO-ENEA, the proposed project focuses on 1) demographics of the three flagship species and the impacts of environmental, social and economic conditions on the species and their habitats; 2) good practices and recommended subregional guideline for agro-biodiversity management; and 3) capacity-building activities among stakeholders, especially empowering youth and women.

The proposed project is expected to be implemented in collaboration with the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership Secretariat (EAAFP) and the Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office, considering their 1) expertise in migratory birds conservation; 2) rich experience of capacity-building activities; and 3) networks to coordinate and conduct activities among NEASPEC member States, especially integrating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into international networks via environmental cooperation.

Through joint field research, desk research, workshops and proposing subregional action plan and guideline, the project aims to improve the awareness of NEASPEC member States and stakeholders with the latest scientific information and capacity to conserve the three species and their habitats. Furthermore, the proposed project will facilitate and strengthen cross-border coordination among stakeholders of targeted habitats through enhanced coordination of their management measures and practices.

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, available at <https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

### 1.3. Approvals

	Name/Title of Signatory	Date	Signature
Proposed by:	Mr. Ganbold Baasanjav Head, SRO-ENEA	14 July 2023	
Reviewed by:	Mr. Adnan H. Aliani Director, SPMD	21 July 2023	
Endorsed by:	Mr. Hirohito Toda Principal Officer	24 July 2023	
Approved by:	Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Executive Secretary	27 July 2023	

## 2. Problem and Situation Analysis

### 2.1. Problem Analysis

Migratory birds rely on the connectivity of habitats throughout their annual cycle of breeding, stopover and wintering. Ensuring connectivity among these habitats is crucial to their survival and conservation. However, the information on NEASPEC target migratory bird species and their habitats is fragmented, especially since migratory birds cross jurisdictions and borders governed by different laws. This makes it difficult for officials and other stakeholders between countries in North-East Asia to coordinate to conserve the species and their habitats. For an effective coordination of conservation efforts at the subregional level, it is essential to deepen scientific knowledge on the demographic profiles of target species and information sharing regarding their habitats. In particular, noting challenges and impacts caused by climate change, economic recovery and development, it is also essential to conduct a tailored analysis of environmental, climate, socio-economic impacts (e.g., urban development, agriculture, land reclamation, industrial expansion) on the target species and their habitats. Accordingly, the proposed project will involve diverse stakeholder groups in member countries including officials, scientists, representatives of civil society and international and regional organizations, and local communities, and facilitate the coordination of their activities, such as simultaneous census and monitoring of each species and their habitats.

In addition, the habitats of key species are closely linked to agricultural activities. In this regard, guidelines for local farmers on the best farming practices would contribute to the well-being of the key species and their habitats. The guidelines would also enable China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation to better adjust and coordinate their domestic agro-biodiversity policies to manage relevant activities. To complement the existing national and local level guidelines and policies for areas adjacent to the habitats, a guideline presenting (sub)regional context should be explored, noting there is no such guideline to ensure coordinated management of subregional agro-biodiversity in North-East Asia. The proposed project will analyze the interconnectedness between ecological and agricultural systems in the

concerned key habitats and develop subregional guidelines to support agro-biodiversity management in North-East Asia.

## 2.2. Gender Analysis

Against the ESCAP Gender Marker Guidance Note, the project is categorized tentatively as GEM1 (contribute to gender equality/women's empowerment in a limited way), noting the primary focus of the project is the targeted three flagship migratory birds and their habitats in North-East Asia.

However, the project will be implemented in an inclusive, gender-sensitive manner and in line with the ESCAP Gender Policy Framework. The project will promote gender equality and women's empowerment through its activities, as relevant, in particular: 1) recommendations for subregional action plans for conservation of target species and their habitats; 2) Development of the subregional guidelines to support agro-biodiversity management; and 3) organization of workshops and capacity-building programmes.

First, with a tailored analysis of demographic status of the three flagship migratory bird species and the impacts of environmental, climate, socio-economic conditions, the project will recommend policy and action plans for conservation management measures. As one component of the tailored analysis, it will include the identification of gender-specific roles and responsibilities in conservation management and whether certain human activities that impact adversely the migratory species are dominated by a certain gender. Furthermore, the project will aim to assess whether women have an appropriate level of participation and decision-making in the existing conservation and management measures. By this way, gender considerations would be incorporated in the envisaged policy recommendations and action plans, which will proactively encourage the effective participation and empowerment of women in the decision-making and conservation management process.

Second, the project will develop a subregional guideline to support sustainable agro-biodiversity management in North-East Asia, which will also include gender mainstreaming aspects to guide local communities and stakeholders in using and conserving the habitats of migratory birds, especially when it involves agricultural activities in respective countries. For instance, the guideline will take into consideration gender-specific roles and responsibilities in farming and agro-biodiversity measures with regards to access to and use of natural resources that affect targeted migratory species, and support recommendations on actions for empowering women in sustainable agro-biodiversity practices.

Third, the capacity-building activities will be gender-sensitive, and may preferentially target women for their involvement in activities, where relevant. The key strategies to be followed to achieve this include but are not limited to: 1) mobilizing support from gender specialists; 2) building capacity of relevant stakeholders, in particular youth and women, to participate in and promote the conservation of targeted species and habitats; and 3) ensuring women's representation in trainings, workshops and relevant activities to empower them and ensure their access to project information and knowledge.

### 2.3. Stakeholder analysis and capacity assessment

Stakeholders	Role in project	Capacity assets	Capacity gaps	Source of information
1) Representatives of the NEASPEC member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision makers of this project (e.g., fund allocation, relevant processes, etc.); and those involved in national policy-making process to consider recommendations by this project</li> <li>Advocators for regional cooperation and promotion of the project</li> <li>Beneficiaries in capacity-building activities of the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness and knowledge of national priorities</li> <li>Understanding of ESCAP, particularly NEASPEC priorities and work modalities</li> <li>Capacity related to resources allocation (e.g., financial, personnel, expertise) for the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness of the latest scientific findings and best available conservation practices related to the three flagship migratory birds and their habitats</li> <li>Increased joint coordination and activities at the subregional level</li> </ul>	Consultations with member States through working level, National Focal Point meetings and Senior Officials Meetings in 2022 and 2023
2) Project partners for execution, including relevant scientists, researchers, and experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executors of the project to conduct research and studies as required by the project</li> <li>Provide trainings to stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientific knowledge and expertise of the three flagship migratory birds and their habitats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation and tools for subregional coordination of monitoring system</li> </ul>	Meetings with project partners in 2023 and earlier years
3) Local governments and management authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the conservation management and measures</li> <li>Beneficiaries in capacity development activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of the local policies, priorities, socio-economic status for migratory birds and their habitats conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness of the latest scientific findings and the best available conservation practices related to the three flagship migratory birds and their habitats</li> </ul>	Project reports and data collected for the previous projects implemented up to 2016
4) NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beneficiaries in capacity development activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge of the local practices for migratory birds and their habitats conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion and visibility of their mandate, workplans and networks for the three flagship species</li> </ul>	Project reports and data collected for the previous projects implemented up to 2016

Stakeholders	Role in project	Capacity assets	Capacity gaps	Source of information
5) Local Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants in the field research as requested by this project</li> <li>Beneficiaries in capacity development activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic knowledge of and interest in migratory birds and their habitats conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved awareness of migratory birds and their habitats, especially empowering young generation with capacity for biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>	Project reports and data collected for the previous projects up to 2016

### 3. Project strategy

#### 3.1. Logical framework

	Indicators	Risks
<b>Objective: Strengthen connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship birds in North-East Asia (Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)</b>		
<p><b>Outcome</b> OC1- Target groups strengthen coordination to conserve target species and their habitats and have increased knowledge and capacity to assess, monitor and manage those target species</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s):</b> ID1: At least 90 representatives of relevant stakeholders trained, engaged in at least 3 collaborative trainings and activities or get access to the project deliverables, publications and training materials; in particular, women and youth to be empowered in the assessment, monitoring and management of the flagship species</p> <p><b>Means of Verification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizations of capacity-building activities (e.g., trainings and workshops)</li> <li>Questionnaires to collect participants' feedback</li> <li>Project reports</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> January 2024 to December 2026</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 90 representatives of relevant stakeholders trained, engaged in at least three collaborative trainings and activities or get access to project deliverables, publications and training materials.</p> <p><b>Interim targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45 representatives of stakeholders participate in each joint activity or workshop</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited participation of DPR Korea</li> <li>Unavailability or difficulties in international travels to participate in events</li> <li>Language barriers</li> </ul> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> HIGH <b>Impact:</b> LOW <b>Mitigation Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilization of expertise of project partners (e.g., Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office) and previous studies by ESCAP to gain expertise and knowledge of the migratory birds status in DPR Korea</li> <li>Utilization of diverse communication channels (onsite, online and knowledge product platforms) and an inclusive consultation process to ensure relevant stakeholders' engagement and access to information</li> <li>Utilization of interpretation services as needed</li> </ul>

<p><b>Output</b> OP1.1 – Target groups have knowledge of the latest status of and recommended actions for conserving target species and their habitats</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s):</b> ID1.1: Dissemination of the latest status of the three flagship species and recommended subregional action plan;</p> <p><b>Means of Verification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publication of the latest findings of demographic information and the status of the target species and their habitats</li> <li>• Publication of the recommended subregional action plans</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> by the completion of Activities 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 (estimated Q2 2026)</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0 <b>Target:</b> By Q2 2026, publication is made available, disseminating to six NEASPEC member States and relevant stakeholders. <b>Interim targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 1 joint capacity-building activity (e.g., training, workshop in a hybrid format) and/or publication reaching at least 90 representatives of stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited participation of relevant stakeholders due to communication challenges (e.g., with DPR Korea)</li> <li>• Language barriers</li> <li>• Potential risks when conducting field surveys and monitoring (e.g., weather extremes, equipment and data failure, social or political restrictive regulations)</li> </ul> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> MEDIUM <b>Impact:</b> MEDIUM <b>Mitigation Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilization of expertise of project partner (e.g., Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office) and previous studies by ESCAP to gain expertise and knowledge of the migratory birds status in DPR Korea</li> <li>• Utilization of interpretation services as needed</li> <li>• Desk research where needed</li> <li>• Project partners to provide adequate training for field researchers with a comprehensive risk management plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity</b> <b>A1.1.1 – Conduct simultaneous monitoring to update the demographic information and the status of habitats of the target migratory birds, including a tailored analysis of environmental, climate, socio-economic impacts on target species</b> This Activity focuses on updating and analyzing the demographic profiles, habitats connectivity and environment-economic-social status of target species.</p>		
<p><b>A1.1.2- Recommend subregional action plans for conservation of target species and their habitats</b> Built upon A1.1.1, this activity recommends subregional action plans to participating member States for their better conservation of target species and habitats.</p>		
<p><b>Output</b> OP1.2 – Target groups have knowledge of agro-biodiversity management at the local, national, subregional and global levels</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s):</b> ID1.2: By project end, at least 70% of target groups who participated in the project activities indicate increased knowledge of agro-biodiversity management practices</p> <p><b>Means of Verification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questionnaires to collect participants' feedback</li> <li>• Publication of desk research findings and the subregional guideline</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> By completion of Activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 (estimated Q2 2025)</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p>	<p><b>Risk:</b> The study on the agro-biodiversity management practices will be mainly conducted through desk research. Therefore, the effectiveness of the practices proposed in the subregional guideline has yet to be validated.</p> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> HIGH <b>Impact:</b> LOW <b>Mitigation Plan:</b> The recommendations on policy and subregional guidelines for agro-biodiversity management provide options and information for member States and local stakeholders' consideration, and thus the recommendations will be further</p>

	<p><b>Target:</b> 70% participants of target groups have increased knowledge of subregional guideline for agro-biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Interim targets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% participants of target groups by completion of the desk research</li> </ul>	<p>consulted with experts and member States upon its completion. Noting the implementation period of this project is two years, the validation of effectiveness could be conducted as follow-up research.</p>
<p><b>Activity</b></p> <p><b>A1.2.1 – Conduct desk research on global, national guidelines and/or local practices on agro-biodiversity management and provide tailored analysis of target habitats in the subregion</b></p> <p>Migratory species and their habitats are closely linked to local agricultural activities. In this regard, this activity aims to conduct desk research on the best available agro-biodiversity management practices, with a tailored analysis in the context of the North-Eastern Asian subregion.</p>		
<p><b>A1.2.2 – Develop subregional guidelines to support agro-biodiversity management</b></p> <p>Currently, national and local level guidelines and policies exist, but a guideline presenting subregional context should be explored, so that respective member States could better adjust and coordinate their domestic policies to manage relevant agricultural and farming activities with considerations of biodiversity conservation.</p>		
<p><b>Output</b></p> <p>OP1.3 – Target groups, including young scientists, are equipped with capacity, coordination arrangement and a more coordinated subregional plan and guidelines to assess, monitor and manage target species and their habitats</p>	<p><b>Indicator(s):</b></p> <p>ID1.3: By project end, at least 70% of target groups who participated in any of the 3 collaborative activities indicate increased knowledge and capacity for conserving the target species and their habitats</p> <p><b>Means of Verification:</b></p> <p>Questionnaires to collect participants’ feedback for each activity</p> <p><b>Timeframe:</b> January 2024 to December 2026</p> <p><b>Baseline:</b> 0</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 70% of target groups indicate increased knowledge and capacity</p> <p><b>Interim targets:</b></p> <p>30% of target group indicate increased knowledge and capacity</p>	<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination challenges in schedules and travel among various stakeholders for participation of events</li> <li>• Language barriers</li> </ul> <p><b>Likelihood:</b> MEDIUM</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> LOW</p> <p><b>Mitigation Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking diverse communication avenues to engage stakeholders for project promotion and knowledge dissemination</li> <li>• Providing interpretation and translation services for events and knowledge products</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activity</b></p> <p><b>A1.3.1 – Organize workshops for dissemination of latest findings and coordinated subregional actions for target species and habitats conservation (OP1.1) and the subregional guidelines (OP1.2)</b></p> <p>With knowledge products and reports generated by the project, workshops and trainings will be organized to disseminate key findings to target groups.</p>		
<p><b>Activity</b></p> <p><b>A1.3.2 – Organize capacity building programmes (e.g., field research as needed by A1.1), especially for young scientists. Other capacity-building activities to be recommended by A1.1.2 and A1.2.2 might also be included</b></p>		

### 3.2. Implementation Approach

Serving as the Secretariat of the NEASPEC, SRO-ENEA will 1) coordinate the implementation of the proposed project among NEASPEC member States, partnering institutions and experts; 2) provide quality check and

quality assurance for the deliverables of the projects; 3) regularly monitor progress against the proposed project workplan and make adjustments in case of any guidance or requirements by the member States and stakeholders; and 4) report any progress, major changes and findings of the proposed project to the National Focal Points and the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) each year, noting SOM is the decision-making and governing body of the NEASPEC.

### 3.3. Workplan

	KEY ACTIVITIES	Implementing Entity	2024				2025				2026				Responsible Officer (optional)
			1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
	<b>Quarter</b>														
	<b>Output 1.1:</b>														
A1.1.1	Conduct simultaneous monitoring to update the demographic information and the status of habitats of the target migratory birds, including a tailored analysis of environmental, climate, socio-economic impacts on target species														SRO-ENEA
A1.1.2	Recommend subregional action plans for conservation of target species and their habitats														SRO-ENEA
	<b>Output 1.2:</b>														
A1.2.1	Conduct desk research on global, national guidelines and/or local practices on agro-biodiversity management and provide tailored analysis of target habitats in the subregion														SRO-ENEA
A1.2.2	Develop subregional guidelines to support agro-biodiversity management														SRO-ENEA
	<b>Output 1.3:</b>														
A1.3.1	Organize a workshop(s) for dissemination of latest findings and coordinated subregional actions for target species and habitats conservation (OP1.1) and the subregional guidelines (OP1.2)														SRO-ENEA
A1.3.2	Organize capacity building programmes (e.g. field research as needed by A1.1.1), especially for young scientists. [Other capacity-building activities to be recommended by A1.1.2 and A1.2.2 might also be included														SRO-ENEA
	<b>Key M&amp;E Milestones</b>														
	Inception Meetings														SRO-ENEA
	Regular monitoring and quality assurance as needed														SRO-ENEA

	KEY ACTIVITIES	Implementing Entity	2024			2025			2026			Responsible Officer (optional)
	Annual progress report											SRO-ENEA
	Project final review meeting											SRO-ENEA

#### 4. Strategic alignment

##### 4.1. Justification for ESCAP involvement

The project aligns with the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda in Asia and the Pacific:

- 1) Means of implementation and partnership
  - (b) Technology
    - Opportunities for regional cooperation:
    - (b) Link regional needs and experience of international, regional and subregional organizations by acting as a bridge to facilitate cooperation for access to technology and know-how and joint action when necessary;
- 2) Thematic issues
  - (d) Management of natural resources:
    - Opportunities for regional cooperation:
    - (b) Share experiences and cooperate on management of natural resources including oceans and seas with a view to increasing food security, conserving the environment, protecting biodiversity and enhancing the welfare of the community; and
    - (c) Develop and share best practices related to increasing agricultural productivity, sustainable agriculture, food security and rural welfare while reducing negative environmental impacts and degradation of the ecosystem.

##### 4.2. Alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

Within the global context of biodiversity conservation, this proposed project targets the endangered species (i.e. Black-faced Spoonbills) and the vulnerable species (i.e. White-naped Crane and Hooded Crane) and their habitats in North-East Asia. In this regard, the proposed project is developed to advance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 17 (partnerships for the goals).

Furthermore, this proposed project is also developed in response to the NEASPEC member States' commitment to enhancing transboundary cooperation through coordinated mechanisms for biodiversity and nature conservation. The Senior Officials Meeting, the decision-making body with representatives from member States of NEASPEC, reviewed the project proposal in 2022 and approved to include this project as part of the NEASPEC's workplan for 2023.

Particularly taking into consideration of the UNSDCF for China (2021 - 2025)<sup>2</sup> and for Mongolia (2023 - 2027)<sup>3</sup>, the proposed project would contribute to China's UNSDCF Strategic Priority 2 (Outputs 3.2 and 3.3) for achieving green development and Mongolia's UNSDCF Strategic Priority 2 (Output 3.3) on green, inclusive and sustainable growth.

With ESCAP's analytical inputs, technical assistance and resources provided for the proposed project, it is expected that the NEASPEC member States would enhance their transboundary cooperation and capacity to ensure sustainable practices and management for biodiversity conservation at national and subregional levels.

## **5. Project Management**

### **5.1. Resource Mobilization**

The project is proposed to be funded by the Russian Federation through Russia-ESCAP Cooperation Fund. NEASPEC Core Fund can also be utilized to support the implementation of project activities and follow-ups.

### **5.2. Sustainability**

Black-faced spoonbill, White-naped crane and Hooded crane are designated as NEASPEC's flagship migratory bird species under the Nature Conservation Strategy adopted in 2007. Since then, NEASPEC has implemented research projects and organized a series of meetings and workshops to increase the understanding and level of transboundary cooperation in the subregion, as the migratory birds connect multiple countries into one ecologically borderless community. Such efforts have led to a significant progress towards institutionalizing cross-border cooperation among range countries.

The proposed project builds on recommendations from previous projects and its envisaged two outcomes - recommendations for subregional action plans and a subregional guideline of agro-biodiversity management – would be further institutionalized under the NEASPEC Nature Conservation Strategy and operationalized by the participating member States, administrations and institutions in the respective countries. Furthermore, the proposed project shows ESCAP's continued responses to the needs expressed by member States to strengthen an effective cooperation mechanism for the flagship species and their habitats.

### **5.3. Partnerships**

The proposed project will ensure continuous involvement of member States (China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation) and project partners (e.g. EAAFP Secretariat and Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office), which provides an invaluable asset to leverage an extensive network, knowledge and expertise of NGOs, academia and local stakeholders in targeted countries (i.e. China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation) for the implementation and promotion at the subregional level.

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<sup>2</sup> UNSDCF for China is available at <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/China-UNSDCF-2021-2025.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> UNSDCF for Mongolia is available at <https://mongolia.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/SF%20Eng%20last%20version7-14.pdf>

By conducting joint scientific research and coordinating conservation strategies at the subregional level, synchronized efforts, coordinated planning and positive cross-border environmental impacts are expected to be scaled up for migratory birds' and their habitats' conservation in the subregion. In addition, utilizing the extensive network leveraged by all stakeholders, the visibility of the project for global advocacy of transboundary cooperation and conservation of migratory birds and habitats would be further increased. In particular, the project findings and recommendations will be subsequently reported to and reviewed by the NEASPEC member States, which would boost concrete implementation of recommended actions as the next steps.

#### 5.4. Monitoring Plan

The SRO-ENEA will regularly communicate with project partners to ensure the project is implemented as per the project document.

- Bi-weekly communication during the project inception phase to ensure all stakeholders involved in the project to have good understanding of the overall strategy and technical directions;
- Regular monitoring and quality assurance of project activities progress and deliverables;
- Annual project progress report by 1) 31 March 2025 covering progress of entire calendar year of 2024; 2) 31 March 2026 covering progress of entire calendar year of 2025; and 3) a final project report upon submission of all project deliverables, which includes the third annual progress report covering progress of entire calendar year of 2026; and
- Annual reporting to the National Focal Points Meetings and the Senior Officials Meeting for member States' information and approval where needed.

#### 5.5. Budget

<b>Sponsored class</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Staff and other personnel costs	\$ 30,300
Contractual services	\$ 30,000
Operating expenses	\$ 25,000
Supplies and materials	\$ -
Equipment and furniture	\$ -
Transfers and grants	\$ 90,000
Travel	\$ 90,000
<i>Total Programmable project costs</i>	<i>\$ 265,300</i>
Programme support costs	\$ 34,489
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$ 299,789</b>

## 6. Evaluation

### 6.1. Evaluation Plan

In accordance with the ESCAP Evaluation Guidelines, this proposed project is not applicable for an independent evaluation, as its total budget does not meet the threshold of USD 400,000.

## **7. Communication**

### **7.1. Communication strategy**

To maximize the impact of the proposed project and increase its visibility at the subregional level and beyond, the communication strategy will focus on awareness raising, stakeholder's engagement and dissemination of project findings and recommendations. For instance, impactful messages will be crafted for dissemination to convey the significance of the project and its achievements, especially in highlighting the ecological value of the three flagship migratory bird species and the urgent need of transboundary cooperation measures for assessing, monitoring and managing their habitats conservation.

To reach diverse stakeholders and increase the visibility of the proposed project, multiple channels of communication will be utilized: 1) NEASPEC websites and other social media to share updates; 2) visual tools (e.g. photos, videos) that resonate with audiences to raise awareness; 3) workshops and capacity-building activities; 4) networks and partnerships to be further leveraged during the project implementation; and 5) dissemination of knowledge products (e.g. virtual, brochures, flyers, etc).

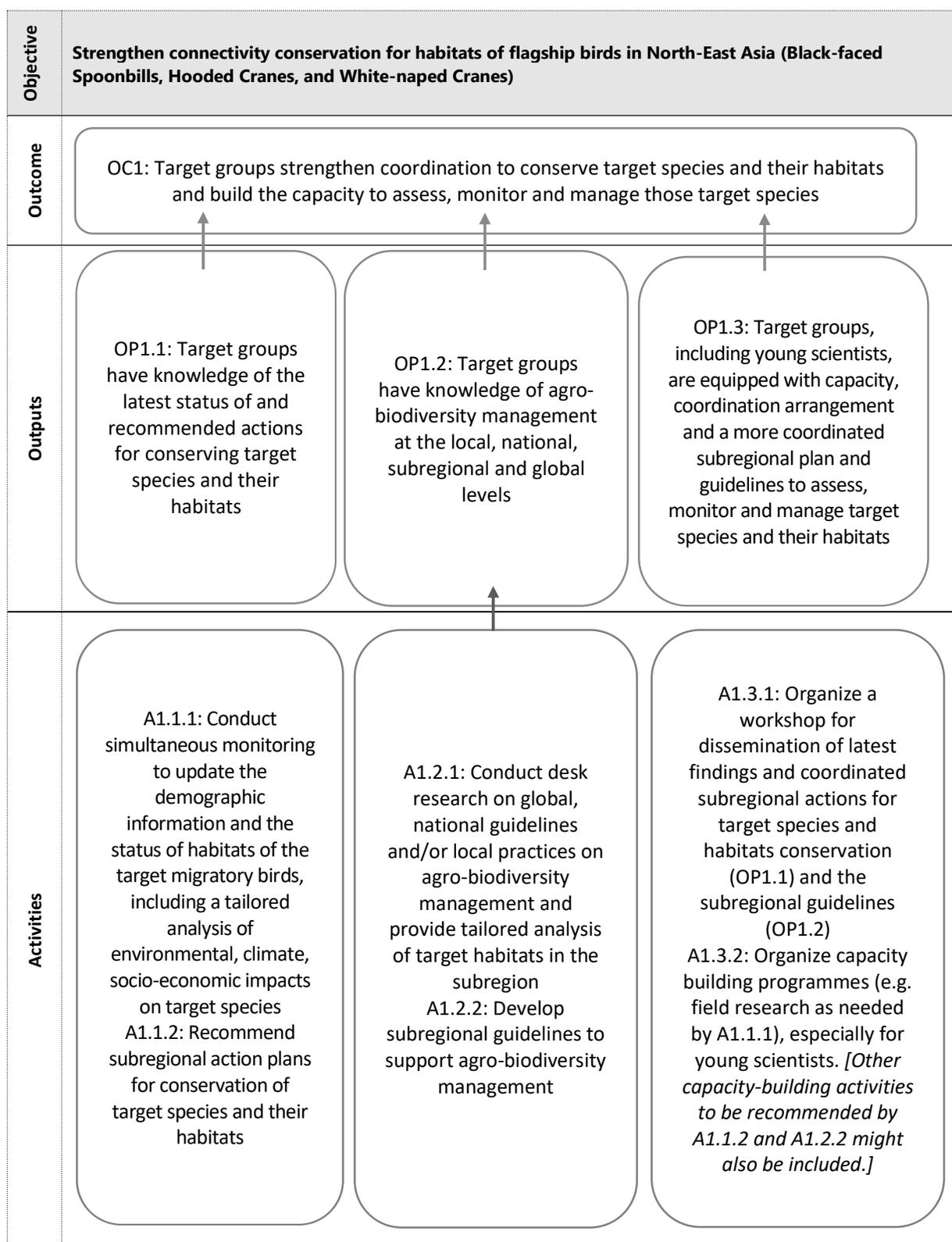
### **7.2. Information and Knowledge Management**

The SRO-ENEA will be responsible to collect, maintain, disseminate and archive any knowledge products generated during the project implementation to ensure proper documentation, including research papers, drafts and final reports, case studies and recordings. In addition, translating key knowledge products into member States' languages will be provided to reach a broader stakeholders and local audience. The SRO-ENEA will also ensure major updates of the project being provided to ESCAP's regular newsletters.

## **Annexes**

1. Logical framework summary
2. Simplified Terms of Reference for each category of consultants
3. Detailed project budget

## 1. Logical Framework Summary



## 2. Simplified Terms of Reference for Consultants/Contractual services

Not applicable for international nor national consultants. The proposed project plans to procure contractual services of institutions if needed and where relevant (e.g. EAAFP Secretariat, Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea Office or Ramsar Regional Center East Asia).

### ***Contractual services***

Individual contractor level: B, C (refer to ST/AI/2013/4)

### Deliverables/outputs:

#### Output 1

- Desk research on the best available practices of agro-biodiversity management in participating countries of the project
- A recommended subregional guideline of agro-biodiversity management

#### Key Tasks:

- Draft the reports and materials as required by the project and the NEASPEC Secretariat
- Serve as the focal point to liaise with SRO-ENEA and local stakeholders at operational level to execute the project
- Participate in relevant capacity-building activities (e.g. workshops, trainings)
- Deliver specific activities as required by the project

Expected Duration: 18 months

### 3. Detailed Project Budget

<b>PART 1: PROJECT INFORMATION</b>			
Project title:	Connectivity conservation for habitats of flagship migratory birds in North-East Asia (Black-faced Spoonbills, Hooded Cranes, and White-naped Cranes)		
Project code:			
Donor:	Russian Federation		
Date of submission:	14 July 2024	PSC Rate	13%
<b>PART 2: SUMMARY BUDGET TABLE</b>			
Sponsored class	Amount	Part 2b: COORDINATION LEVY (IF APPLICABLE)	
Staff and other personnel costs	\$ 30,300.00		
Contractual services	\$ 30,000.00		
Operating expenses	\$ 25,000.00	Total project budget	\$ 299,789.00
Supplies and materials	\$ -	1% Coordination levy	\$ -
Equipment and furniture	\$ -	<b>Total contribution from donor</b>	<b>\$ 299,789.00</b>
Transfers and grants	\$ 90,000.00		
Travel	\$ 90,000.00		
<i>Total Programmable project costs</i>	<i>\$ 265,300.00</i>		
Programme support costs	\$ 34,489.00		
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$ 299,789.00</b>		
<b>PART 3: DETAILED BUDGET TABLE</b>			
Commitment item class and description	Year 1	Year 2	Total
<b>FT_CLASS_010 Staff and other personnel costs</b>			
Internationally recruited staff (Professional)			\$ -
National Professional Officer (NPO)			\$ -
Locally recruited staff (General Service)			\$ -
International consultants	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
National consultants			\$ -
Consultant for evaluation			\$ -
Appendix D charges	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,300.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_120 Contractual services</b>			
Contractual services	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 20,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 30,000.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_125 General operating and other direct costs</b>			
Premises - rent and operational costs			\$ -
Communication costs			\$ -
Other operating costs	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Post accommodation costs			\$ -
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 25,000.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_130 Supplies, Commodities and Materials</b>			
Supplies, Commodities and Materials			\$ -
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_135 Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture</b>			
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture			\$ -
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_140 Transfer and grants to implementing partner</b>			
Transfer, grants and direct IPs costs	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ 90,000.00
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_150 IP Programme Support Costs</b>			
PSC and indirect costs - IPs			\$ -
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total IP Costs</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_160 Travel</b>			
Travel of staff on official business	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Travel of consultants			\$ -
Travel of experts			\$ -
Fellowships			\$ -
Study Tours/Workshops/Seminars	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 90,000.00</b>
<b>Total Programmable Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 190,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 265,300.00</b>
<b>FT_CLASS_155 Programme Support Costs - UN</b>			
Programme Support Costs	\$ 24,726.00	\$ 9,763.00	\$ 34,489.00
<b>Class Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,726.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,763.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,489.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 214,926.00</b>	<b>\$ 84,863.00</b>	<b>\$ 299,789.00</b>

<b>PART 4: BUDGET NARRATIVE</b>			
Staff and other personnel costs (Total = \$30,300)			
- \$15,000 for hiring international consultant to conduct the study on the good practices of agro-biodiversity management in North-East Asia and analysis for the impact on the target species and their habitats (3 work-months x \$5,000 /month x 1 consultant (Level B) )			
- \$15,000 for hiring internaional consultant to conduct the policy analysis and recommendation on subregional guideline for agro-biodiversity management (3 work-months x 1 consultant x (Level B)			
- \$300 for Appendix D charges			
Contractual Services (Total: \$30,000)			
- \$ 10,000 for simultaneous interpretation services and rental of related equipment (\$5,000 x 2 workshops)			
- \$ 5,000 for printing and editing of reports			
- \$ 2,000 for production of banners, name plates, and other meeting collateral materials			
- \$ 5,000 for translation services of reports/studies			
- \$ 8,000 for catering services for the worshop (\$4,000 x 2 workshops).			
General operating and other direct costs (Total: \$25,000)			
- \$ 15,000 for rental of meeting venue, equipment and facilities (\$7,500 x 2 workshops)			
- \$ 10,000 for web broadcasting services and/or on-line meeting facilitation platform services. (\$5,000 x 2 workshops)			
Supplies, Commodities, Materials			
No requirement			
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture			
No requirement			
Transfers and grants to implementing partner (Total = \$90,000)			
- \$90,000 for partnership with an implementing partner (s) to conduct the study of migratory birds demographic information and analysis of environmental and socio-economic impacts.			
Travel (Total = \$ 90,000)			
- \$20,000 for staff travel costs for organization of workshop and implementing capacity building activities, \$2,500 per mission x 4 x 2 staff (1.3.1 and 1.3.2)			
- \$70,000 for travel costs of meeting participants and resource persons to participate in the meetings/workshops. (activity 1.3.1 and 1.3.2)			
Programme Support Costs (Total =\$34,489)			
- \$34,489 Programme support costs for the UN at 13%.			